WORLD / A22

Democratic White House aspirant John Edwards says wife's cancer has recurred, now stage 4

NEWS / A2

Mapalad farmers installed in Negros hacienda ask DAR for soldiers to protect them

SATURDAY SPECIAL / I4

Sandra Bullock delivers solid performance in stodgy thriller

10 RP nurses plead not guilty in New York case

RIVERHEAD, NEW YORK—TEN FILIPINO nurses who resigned without notice from a medical facility that cares for the physically disabled pleaded not guilty on Thursday to conspiracy and child endangerment charges, prosecutors said.

The nurses, recruited in the Philippines to work in the United States for a three-year com-

10 RP NURSES/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, March 24, 2007 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 106 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Malaysian DVD pirates want 2 sniffer dogs dead

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Music and movie pirates have put bounties on the heads of Lucky and Flo—two Labrador dogs who helped sniff out nearly 1 million illegal discs last

MALAYSIAN/ A4

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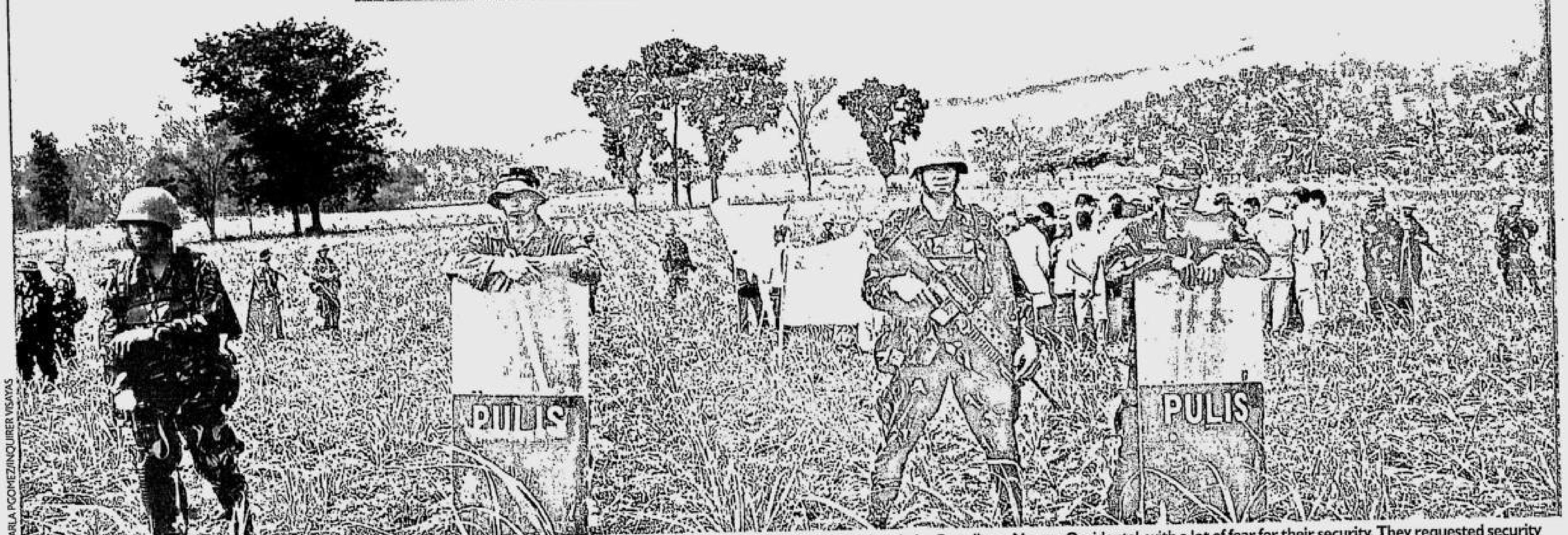

CARLA P.GOMEZ/INQUIRER VISAYAS

UNSETTLING SETTLEMENT: The 57 land reform beneficiaries settle down on their portion of the 400-ha Hacienda Velez-Malaga in La Castellana, Negros Occidental, with a lot of fear for their security. They requested security forces to protect them allegedly from unionized farm workers identified with landowner Roberto Cuenca. The controversial Rep. Ignacio Arroyo has also been identified as one of the sugar estate's stakeholders. *(Story on Page A2)*

Iggy wants Alicia gagged

Gag order covers Jose Pidal bank accounts

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL REP. IGNACIO "IGGY" ARroyo has secured a court order barring his estranged wife and her lawyer from further talking about the custody case involving the couple's only child.

The lawmaker's lawyers, who claimed that the revelation of what was supposed to be a private matter was politically motivated, said the gag order covered not only details of the marital dispute but also his wife Alicia "Aleli" Arroyo's knowledge of the "Jose Pidal" bank accounts.

Iggy Arroyo, then a businessman, claimed in 2003 to be the Jose Pidal who, according to Sen. Panfilo Lacson, owned bank accounts purportedly containing laundered campaign money. Lacson had said it was Iggy Arroyo's elder brother Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, who owned the accounts.

In a hastily called press conference yesterday at the family-owned LTA Building in Makati City, Congressman Arroyo appeared calm and collected as he read from a prepared statement, with his lawyers and advisers close at hand.

One of his lawyers, Ruth Duque, said they had received a court order signed March 22 enjoining Alicia Arroyo and her lawyer Lorna Kapunan from making statements to reporters and on television regarding the case.

Duque cited the policy statement of Judge Rosalina Pison in July 2002, which raised the need for media restraint in cases in-

IGGY WANTS/ A6

MANDY NAVASERO

ALICIA MORALES-ARROYO

REP. IGNACIO "IGGY" ARROYO

Why Arroyo wife sought protection

By Michael Lim Ubac

AT THE CENTER OF THE LEGAL battle between spouses Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo and Alicia Arroyo is not only the custody of their only child but also the wife's expressed fear for her life.

Alicia, a former banker and stockbroker who was the first woman and youngest chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange, sought protection from the Quezon City Regional Trial Court in response to her husband's petition for joint custody of their 9-year-old daughter.

She said the lawmaker, the younger brother of President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, abandoned her and their child in June 2006.

Alicia's plea for the protection order includes the following reasons:

- "In the course of their marriage, she came to know of "intimate and sensitive secrets" about her husband as well as members of his family and close allies, including the mistresses of certain political personalities.
- Being a member of "the most powerful political family in the country," her husband has "at his disposal" police and military personnel, as well as armed bodyguards and back-up vehicles, and has "connections in high places," and , "almost unlimited resources."
- Her husband, who used to

WHY ARROYO/ A6

Heads to roll over ₱365.8-M lampposts

By Jolene Bulambot and Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE OMBUDSMAN Visayas has found that there was massive overpricing in the controversial project to install street lights in three Metro Cebu cities for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations leaders summit last January.

The investigation found that the government spent a total of P365.8 million for the lampposts and other street lighting projects in Metro Cebu for the Asean summit, not P120 million as earlier claimed by the DPWH officials here.

The Ombudsman Visayas has recommended that top regional officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the mayors of Lapu-Lapu and

HEADS/ A8

Solons have no choice but abstain from fat pork

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

LEGISLATORS MAY HAVE DOUbled their pork, but they can't touch it just yet.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. yesterday noted that there would be a "long pork holiday" because of the elections, the long congressional recess and the election ban on public works projects, many of which are funded from the legislative pork barrel.

So the congressional leaders who increased the pork barrel from P6.2 billion to P11.4 billion in the 2007 budget may not be able to use their bloated pork for a long time.

The budget chief also assured government retirees they would be "first in the ballot" of fund releases. The increase in the pork barrel was apparently achieved by lopping off a huge chunk from the budget allotted for the retire-

SOLONS/ A17

Unique project: Cops teach 3 Rs to kids

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

SAN FERNANDO CITY—POLICEmen Rodolfo Mapalo, 28, Angelo Guyab, 28, and Erwin Cruz, 24, start the day not by checking their firearms but by reviewing their lesson plans.

They proceed to the Alibangsay Elementary School, located in the remote village of Bagulin, La Union. Their mission: To teach children reading, writing and arithmetic.

Mapalo, Guyab and Cruz are part of the "Pulis Ko, Titser Ko" (My Policeman, My Teacher) program of the Ilocos police. All three are armed with degrees in education but since they joined the police force, they have been tasked with quashing insurgency in remote villages.

Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Ilocos police director, says the program, initiated by the regional police with the Department of Education, is envisioned to assist schools that lack teachers.

The policemen go where there is a shortage of teachers and act as substitutes when teachers attend training workshops or go on leave.

The policemen also provide security within the school premises. "Policemen are trained to be protectors of the country and the people, but in [Ilocos], we proved

UNIQUE/ A6

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT
Tourists in Loboc, Bohol, close in on Tarsiers—who look scared out of their wits—to take close-up shots of this endangered species, which is the world's smallest primate and found only in Bohol.

Pinoys' giving behavior: They give little—SWS

By Doris C. Dumlao
Business

THE COUNTRY'S AWARENESS OF ORganizations supporting social causes—like care for street children, orphans and indigenous people—is pitifully low, and so is the frequency of giving to charity, according to a recent survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations.

During the launch on Thursday of Equipay, the first online portal which seeks to reach out to more givers such as overseas Filipinos and international donors, SWS board member and survey project leader, Dr. Eduardo "Ned" Roberto, said it was a big challenge for nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and people's organizations (POs) to be in the

PINOYS'/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2007

Second FRONTPAGE

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(All in exact order)

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/03/23/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

PNP duns Comelec for P644M

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) IS ASKing for more than half a billion pesos from the government to beef-up security for the May elections.

The PNP is tasked with the overall security operations for peaceful elections. In the past, this role was filled by the military. But last December, in the aftermath of the "Hello … Garci" scandal which implicated several military officers—including the President and the chief of staff—in alleged election fraud, the Defense Department and the Comelec agreed to limit the participation of soldiers in the elections.

To fulfill their expanded role, PNP Director for Operations chief Wilfredo Garcia said yesterday they have requested the release of P644 million from the Department of Budget Management through the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Garcia explained that the bulk of this amount will be used to "rent" vehicles, particularly aircraft and seacraft, to transport ballot boxes. Other expenses include petroleum and high-octane gas, supplies and operation expenses for intensified surveillance against private armed groups.

"In areas where the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) has no assets, we need to rent vehicles like choppers and ships," Garcia said.

He clarified that the budget request is just a "wishlist." He did not furnish reporters with the detailed list.

Garcia explained that they had asked their regional commands to submit a list of resources needed for the elections and their estimated cost, and forwarded this to PNP Comptroller Director Noe Wong.

Wong also said the amount was just a "rough estimate" sent to the DBM three weeks ago.

For now, with the request still pending, Wong said they are using funds of the PNP.

Meanwhile, Garcia said the military may still be deputized by the Comelec in areas where police forces are lacking, particularly where there is a strong presence of armed rebel groups such as the communist New People's Army, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and other private armed groups.

This is still allowed in the memorandum, instigated by then Defense chief Avelino Cruz, that seeks to limit military participation in elections in the aftermath of the wiretapped "Hello Garci" tape that implicated four ranking military officers, including present AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon in alleged election fraud.

Esperon denied the charge. An internal investigation by the military cleared him and all officer mentioned in the controversial tapes.

The issue of the tapes, however, is still being raised by the opposition in this midterm election campaign that will culminate on May 14.

GMA to press OK of RP-Japan accord

SAYING THAT A LOT OF Japanese investments will depend on its approval, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday expressed the hope that the Senate will immediately ratify the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement when the new Congress opens in July.

"JPEPA has been made possible because we have mutually beneficial relations...this is the basis also for our hope that the Senate will be able to ratify it," Ms Arroyo said in an interview with the Japanese Jiji Press news service.

"I hope it will be ratified speedily," Ms Arroyo added.

The President said that with the JPEPA, Japan will open up its protectionist agricultural sector to Philippine exports and facilitate more direct investments from Japan.

"The Japanese ambassador have said so many investors from Japan are just waiting for the JPEPA to be ratified," she said.

The present 13th Congress, which is on recess for the election period, will convene briefly in June but only to formally end its term. The Senate is the country's treaty-ratifying body.

Ms Arroyo said the JPEPA, like the antiterror law, was a priority. But she said the administration had to concentrate on the passage of the latter during the last session days of December as part of its commitment to the United Nations.

Juliet Labog-Javellana

Uneasy calm reigns in troubled hacienda

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—AN UNEASY CALM HAS settled over the contested Hacienda Velez-Malaga a day after Department of Agrarian Reform officials, backed by over 300 riot police and military men, forced their way through a barricade of opposing farm workers to finally install 57 land reform beneficiaries.

Policemen and army soldiers continued to patrol the area inside the sugar plantation in La Castellana town, Negros Occidental, which was declared a land reform area in 1996 and parceled out to farmer-beneficiaries in 2002.

The sugarcane fields were empty: Farm workers loyal to the former landowner who had gathered to oppose the installation of the farmer-beneficiaries were nowhere to be seen.

But neither were the newly installed land owners, who had waited five years and staged a hunger strike in front of the DAR main office in Quezon City before they were finally installed in their property.

Those installed on Thursday represent less than half of the 122 beneficiaries waiting to take over the land awarded to them. They are entitled to .97 hectares each.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman, who led the takeover of the hacienda, said he would install the rest of the beneficiaries in the "next two weeks."

Senior Supt. Pedro Merced, 6th Regional Mobile Group commander said 26 of his policemen and about 26 Army soldiers remained to keep the peace. A permanent police detachment would be set up, he added.

There are still some issues that remain unresolved, Merced said.

The opposing farm workers have filed a motion for reconsideration, again questioning the legitimacy of some of the beneficiaries.

Landowner Roberto Cuenca and workers identified with him are also preparing to file charges against Pangandaman and other DAR officials responsible for the installation on Thursday.

Their lawyer, Mario Diaz, said all those responsible for the installation, including law enforcers, will be charged for contempt of court because there is a case still pending before the Supreme Court. Corruption charges will also be filed against the DAR officials before the Ombudsman. Other cases on human rights violations and illegal trespassing will be filed with the proper bodies, he added.

DAR Undersecretary Narciso Nieto welcomed the filing of charges, saying it would be a "good test case."

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon, on the other hand, said he will ask President Macapagal-Arroyo for a review of the agrarian reform process. The governor said he is not against agrarian reform, but favored the proper identification of beneficiaries so the threat of violence does not arise again.

Marañon said he would hold Pangandaman responsible for any violence that arises "from the mess that he created."

Meanwhile, hunger strikers called off their protest and celebrated their partial victory. Some of the beneficiaries met with agriculture assistant secretary Dennis Araullo to request support services, including irrigation systems, water buffaloes and farm implements to help them succeed in Hacienda Velez-Malaga. *With reports from TJ Burgonio*

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Ang Ladlad misses cut for party list, and it's final

THE COMMISSION on Elections has denied with finality the gay group Ang Ladlad's bid to participate in the May 14 party-list polls.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday said a resolution rejecting the group's application for accreditation was already circulating among the commissioners for their signatures.

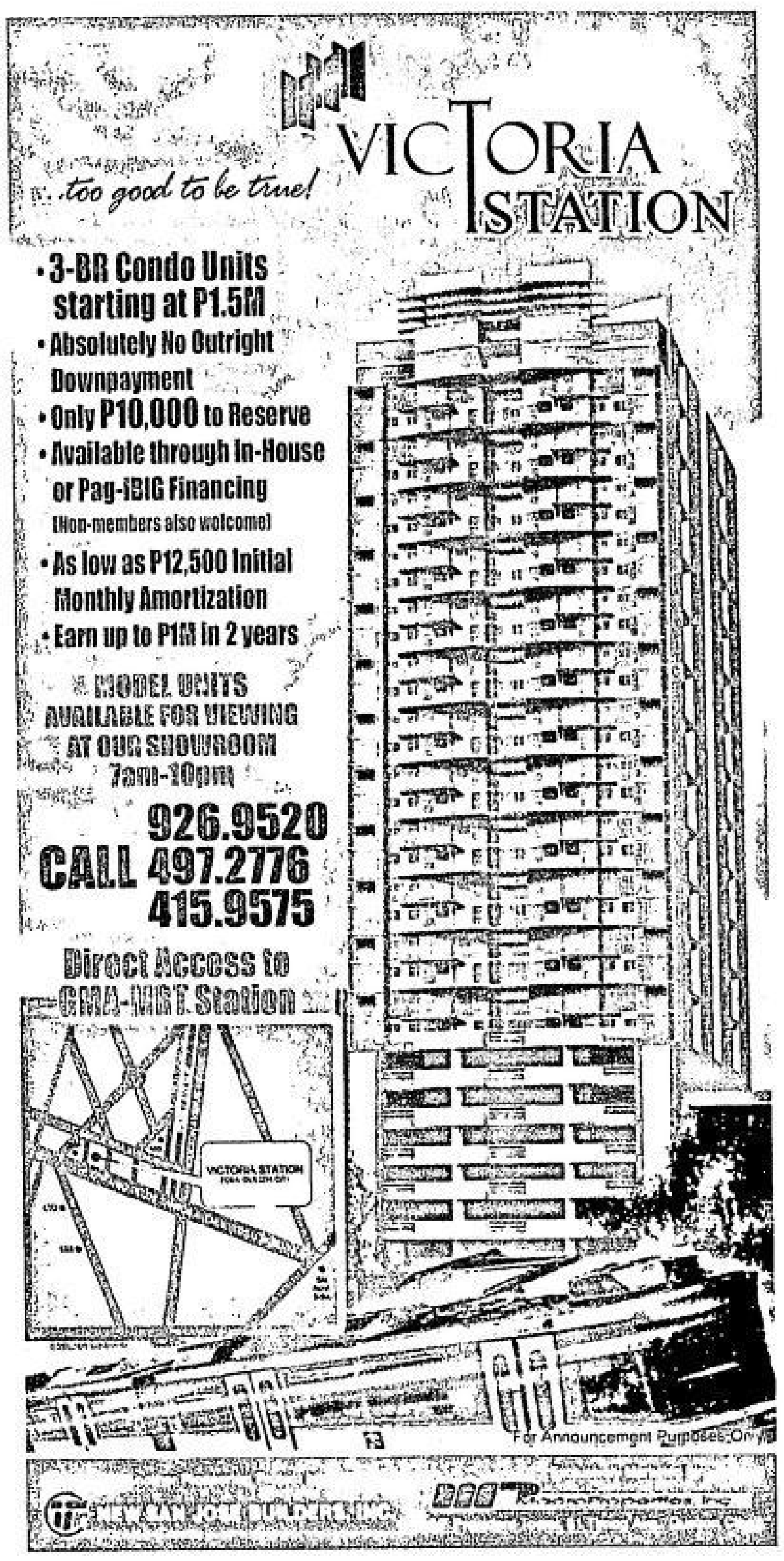
He said the main basis of rejection remained Ang Ladlad's failure to show proof of a nationwide organization and structure as required by Republic Act No. 7941, or the Party-List System Act of 1995.

"They may have the loftiness of ideas or purposes, but the law is the law. The nationwide organization should first be made," Abalos told reporters.

Abalos added that the group, chaired by Ateneo de Manila University professor Danton Remoto, was also unable to convince the Commission that it really represented a marginalized sector of the society, another requirement of RA 7941.

He said that during a hearing, Remoto admitted that Ang Ladlad had many members who were lesbians, male homosexuals, bisexuals and "transgendered" but they would all come out in the open after the group was accredited.

Abalos said: "Therefore, many of its members are still phantoms, in the sense that we still don't know who they are." *Jerome Aning*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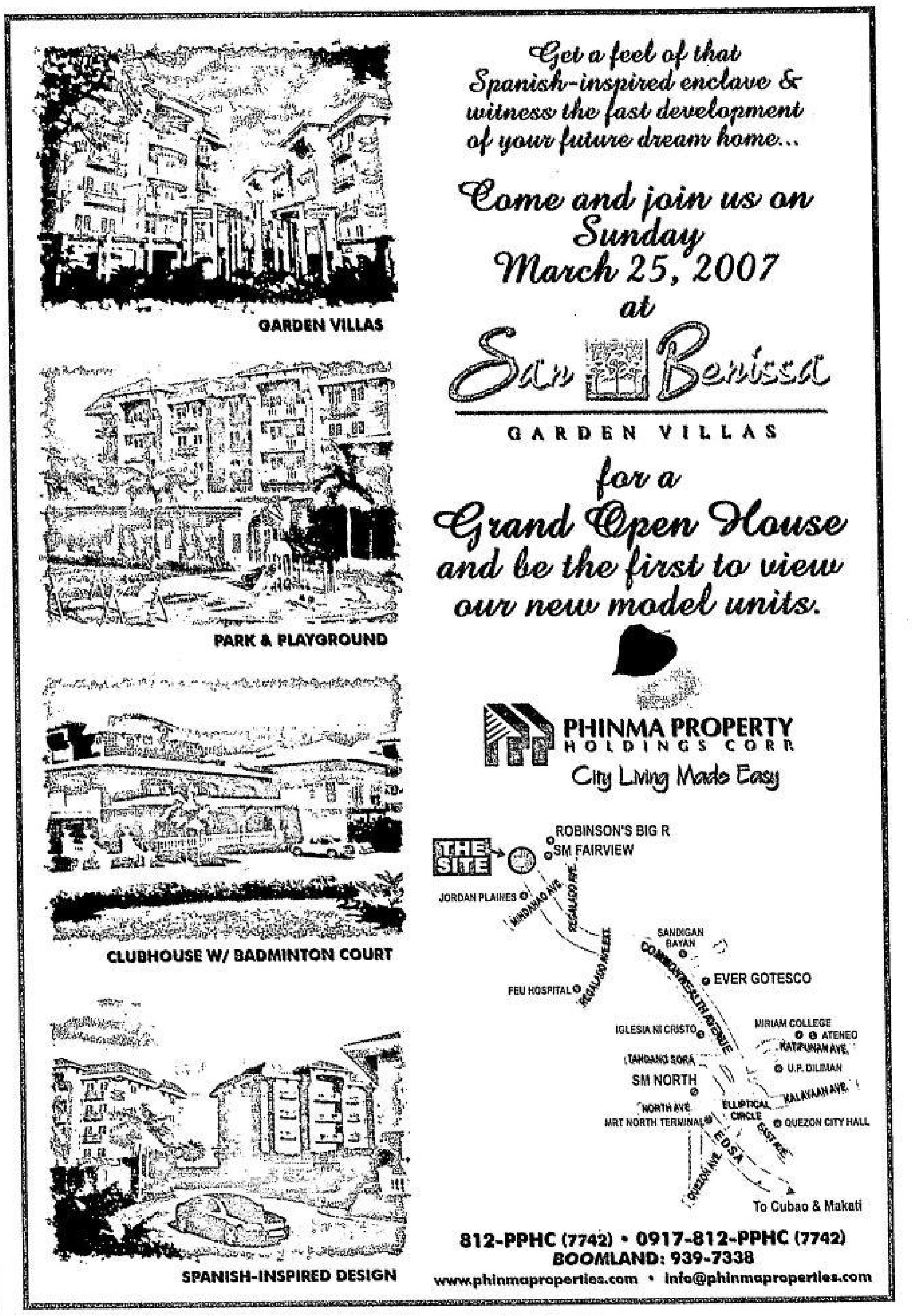
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10 RP nurses plead not guilty in New York case

From page A1

mitment, sought to break that commitment by walking out on their jobs, Suffolk County prosecutors charged.

An indictment says the nurses' Manhattan attorney, Felix Vinluan, instructed them to resign without notice last April.

The lawyer was also charged and pleaded not guilty.

Although none of the children at the facility suffered ill effects from the walkout, criminal charges were filed because the children were endangered, Assistant District Attorney Leonard Lato said.

"It's just like if a parent leaves a child in a car with the windows up in the summertime," he said. "It doesn't matter if nothing happens to the child; the fact that [the child was] left in a dangerous situation is the crime."

The nurses face up to six years in prison if convicted, and they could face deportation.

Defensor

In Manila, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday attributed the nurses' plight to Michael Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's former chief of staff and now a senatorial candidate of the administration's Team Unity.

Pimentel said Defensor had intervened in the case in favor of the American recruiting firm, Sentosa Care.

The senator also said Philippine Consulate officials in New York had failed to protect the nurses.

"It's really sad how our overseas workers like these nurses are not getting support from the Philippine government," he said, adding:

"Somehow I cannot disassociate Defensor from their plight. It has nothing to do with his campaign. It has everything to do with his intervention. He intervened in favor of Sentosa.

"I challenge him to prove where his loyalty lies. Is it for our oppressed nurses or for the American recruiter? In effect, he put these nurses in a bind. Now that they're getting the brunt of the retaliatory acts of Sentosa, he should show his true color."

Reached for comment in Naga City, Defensor disclaimed culpability.

"I already denied it before, when Senator Pimentel first raised it," Defensor said.

He said the committee chaired by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada had indicated that it would conduct an investigation, but it did not push through and he was not summoned to explain.

"It's an old issue. Now they're raising it again in the middle of the campaign. *Wala akong kinalaman dyan* (I have nothing to do with the case)," he said.

Keeping tabs

Consul General Cecilia Rebong told the INQUIRER that the Philippine Consulate in New York, as well as the labor and foreign affairs departments here, was keeping tabs on the case.

"This happened [Thursday] night so today [Friday], I am getting in touch with people in New York and see what they have talked about, and I'll see what I'll do with authorities here," Rebong said when reached by phone late yesterday afternoon.

The consul is in Manila for the three-day policy consultation among Philippine mission heads and top officials, which closed last night at the Renaissance Hotel in Makati City.

She is scheduled to fly back to New York on April 2.

Rebong said the consulate's legal officers were present when the accused nurses appeared in court on Thursday.

"Since the case started, we have been in touch with them. I am going back April 2, but we have people there attending to this," she said. "We have submitted our report [to the government] and we will provide help to assist our nurses."

Financial help

Rebong also said she had discussed the matter with Foreign Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Esteban Conejos Jr.

She said there was an agreement to provide financial aid to the nurses for their legal expenses, and that the consulate would "find ways" to provide the aid.

"Undersecretary Conejos assured us that we will provide assistance. What's left to determine is the specifics," she said. *Reports from AP, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Tarra Quismundo and Cynthia D. Balana*

Malaysian DVD pirates want ...

FEMALE black Labrador sniffer dogs "Lucky and Flo" sniff out DVDs hidden in a box at a storage center at Malaysian Airlines Cargo during a demonstration in Sepang, March 13, 2007.

REUTERS

From page A1

week—days after joining Malaysia's anti-piracy effort—a news report said Thursday.

The sniffer dogs, on loan for a month from the Motion Picture Association of America, have been moved to a safe house after a source tipped off officials about the bounty offered for killing the dogs, the New Straits Times reported. It did not disclose the amount.

"The dogs are a genuine threat to the pirated disc syndicates, thus the instruction to eliminate them," Firdaus Zakaria, enforcement director at the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, was quoted as saying.

First time

It is the first time dogs have been used by authorities anywhere in the world to detect contraband discs, according to Mike Ellis, regional director for the MPAA.

The MPAA says its members—including top Hollywood studios Paramount Pictures, Warner Bros., 20th Century Fox and Universal—lost US$1.2 billion to Asia-Pacific movie pirates in 2006.

Lucky and Flo are trained to detect polycarbonates—chemicals used in the disc manufacturing process.

The two dogs, pressed into service on March 13, gained fame after they sniffed out 1 million pirated DVDs worth US$2.8 million in an office complex in southern Johor state on March 19.

Leading film pirate

Five Malaysians and a Vietnamese man were arrested in the operation.

Malaysia is among the world's leading illegal movie producers and exporters, the US government and the MPAA say. China remains at the top of the MPAA's piracy list, however.

Officials say 5 million illegal discs were seized in more than 2,000 raids in Malaysia last year, and 780 people were arrested.

Firdaus could not be immediately reached for further details. A ministry spokesperson contacted by The Associated Press declined to comment.

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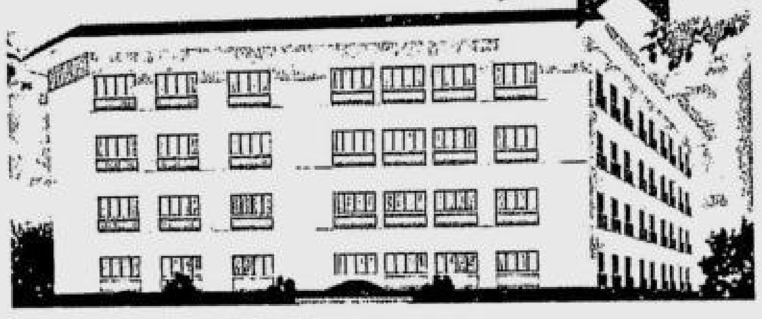

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1)	Arcinia Arrio	Binohangan, Caibiran, Leyte	Bianito Arrio SS#33-4715560-2	August 17, 2006
2)	Lanie Organay Balaoro Robin Barnido Angel Vie Barnido	L43 B83 Lower Tawi Tawi, Pangarap Vill, Caloocan City	Edwin Balaoro SS#33-5105754-7	November 30, 2006
3)	Carmen Sembrano-Balucana	Kita-Kita, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija	Lorenzo Balucanag SS#03-3190781-4	January 3, 2007
4)	Jovencio Barot	CC	Edgardo Barot SS#03-8235555-4	September 6, 2006
5)	Glenda Bausa Alvin Bausa	Pamplona, Las Piñas	Roger Bausa SS#03-9631994-2	May 20, 2006
6)	Josie/Josephine Lam Buenaventura	1917 A. Dagupan Ext., Tondo, Mla.	Ricardo Buenaventura SS#03-6268743-3	April 7, 2006
7)	Paz Cananua	Rawis Guirang, Basey, Samar	Cesario Canaua SS#06-0292695-1	December 17, 2006
8)	Rosario Alcaide	Manila	Meleton Catalan SS#03-3856858-6	September 23, 2005
9)	Juan Molina	231 Maria Clara, 6th Ave., Cal., Rizal	Victoria Chan SS#03-0074844-4	September 7, 2000
10)	Luzviminda Oleyza a.k.a. Luz O. Cortero	Fields Avenue, Balibago, Angeles City	Jose Cortero SS#03-2811690-6	August 1, 2006
11)	Elena Gonzaga De La Tonga	30 Macaningning St., Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City	Aruncio E. De La Tonga SS#03-7680103-0	May 30, 1998
12)	Ofelia Faborada	288 Karuhatan, Valenzuela, Bulacan	Edmundo L. Faburada SS#03-4008728-8	January 2, 2007
13)	Joslin C. Layaguin	Unknown	Jacinto Layaguin SS#07-1128089-2	April 15, 2006
14)	Editha Legaspi	46 Malabaga St., Pinagbuhatan City	Alejandro Legaspi, Jr. SS#03-4604353-0	May 14, 2004
15)	Felomina Tolomo Limoncito	Surigao City	Ricardo Lemoncito SS#08-0344839-3	August 3, 2006
16)	Ruby Esguerra	99 4th St., 7th Ave., Caloocan City	Oscar A. Leyva SS#03-5161600-4	November 1, 2006
17)	Romeo Luna	320 Cordero St., 9th Ave., GP, Kalookan	Rogelio M. Luna SS#03-3122082-1	January 9, 2005
18)	Alicia Cueto	26 San Mateo, Rizal	Rodolfo L. Macaraig SS#03-2674641-7	December 26, 2006
19)	Jose Majadas Leonor Alcarado	67 P. Tuazon Blvd., Cubao, QC	Antonio Majadas SS#03-2429898-3	June 11, 2005
20)	Conchita Mata	196 Col. Dora, Pasay City	Elpidio Mata SS#03-4550166-2	July 16, 2006
21)	Mercedes Miole Jesson Miole	Unknown	Ricardo Miole, Jr SS#01-0563883-0	March 17, 2006.
22)	Herminio Mapalo	Unknown	Imelda Mondejar SS#01-1110451-1	April 18, 2006
23)	Anabelle Hermoso Raymart Onida	Batangas	Samuel I. Onida SS#03-9206177-3	May 1, 2003
24)	Alicia Fernandez	58 Zamora, Meycauayan, Bulacan	Benito Parinas SS#03-0646503-5	July 15, 2006
25)	Nancy Reyes Joy Francia	Unknown	Ricardo Reyes SS#03-3565222-0	December 31, 2006
26)	Antonio Santos	San Jose City, Nueva Ecija	Flordeliza H. Santos SS#03-4914111-2	November 10, 2004
27)	Ofelia Medua	Unknown	Rolando Santos SS#03-3233561-8	September 27, 2005
28)	Nimia Salvacion	631 R. Pascual St., Mandaluyong City	Charlie Sunga SS#33-3367338-9	March 10, 2001
29)	Flor Sealmoy Susana	30 12th St., Saluysoy, Olongapo, Zambales	Demetrio Susana SS#02-0051481-7	December 20, 2006
30)	Salvacion Budhe/Buhe	Bagbag, Novaliches, Quezon City	Antonio C. Talaboc SS#03-2079501-1	November 21, 2006

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(PDI – March 24, 2007)

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LUGAO IN THE MENU: Street children and jobless men (above, and left) take their meal for the day given daily by a nongovernment organization outside Quiapo Church. The incidence of hunger remains at a record high of 19 percent with 3.4 million households saying they experienced hunger at least once a month in the past 3 months according to SWS survey. REUTERS

FOOD ON THE AGENDA: President Arroyo presides over the National Nutrition Council board meeting in Malacañang on Friday. LYN RILLON

Iggy wants wife gagged, also on Jose Pidal

From page A1

volving family relations on grounds that publicity not only fomented friction between an estranged couple but also caused trauma among their children.

Iggy's statement

"As you all know, Aleli Arroyo has been doing the rounds and spreading false accusations against me and my family," Congressman Arroyo said.

He added: "I am shocked that she has stooped this low. Worse, I am deeply saddened that she has used my daughter as a pawn for no other reason than to gain leverage against me.

"I will not engage her in a public debate of our domestic troubles. I will maintain my dignity and that of my family, and protect whatever little privacy my daughter has left.

"Please have pity on my child. It's bad enough she cannot see me because of the devious acts of her mother."

The lawmaker said he filed the custody case in January this year, or a month after he went out with his daughter for the last time.

"Please be fair to my daughter. She has suffered long enough. I feel very saddened and hurt as a father, but my daughter is a victim of all of this," he said.

"I took care of her while she was growing up. We went to the mall the last time we went out. It has been a long time since I saw her or talked to her."

Congressman Arroyo also said he had received a report that the child had been taken to the United States by her mother.

He said he loved not only his daughter with Alicia Arroyo but also his two children in his first marriage.

Shadows

The lawmaker dismissed as lies his wife's claim that she and the child were in danger:

"She sees shadows that are not there. I don't know; it's not in our family's nature to do that.

"I want you to know that I will protect my own daughter at all costs, even at the cost of my own life. I will never, ever do anything that will remotely put her in danger. I categorically deny the lies Aleli has been spreading against me and my family.

"You will note that when I filed this case, you did not hear about it. In contrast, she has made a circus and mockery of all these. May I remind Aleli that the very law she invokes and all the records in this case are to be treated with confidentiality.

"Visitation is good enough for me. I just want to see my child."

Congressman Arroyo confirmed his wife's claim that he had drawn up a $1-million life insurance policy for her. But he said it was with her full consent because she had signed it herself.

He presented documents showing that the policy lapsed in October 2006. (*See story on Page A1.*)

Pidal case

Ruy Rondain, another of Congressman Arroyo's lawyers, said the gag order covered Alicia Arroyo's knowledge of the Jose Pidal accounts especially because she included these in her petition.

"The court has the power to gag her [on the matter]. She'll get into trouble with the court. I can't imagine why she would want to talk about it. It's in the case she brought in," said Rondain, who sat as counsel beside Mike Arroyo during the 2003 Senate inquiry into the Jose Pidal bank account.

Responding to a question from the INQUIRER, Lacson said the Senate would listen to Alicia Arroyo talk about the Jose Pidal case "only if she does so voluntarily."

"The Jose Pidal issue is far from resolved. It raised more questions than answers. We need closure to it, and the time may have come to close it the way we know," the reelectionist senator said in a text message.

Mum's the word

Congressman Arroyo refused to comment on the collapse of their marriage, but lawyer Duque said trouble had been brewing since last year.

Duque said the lawmaker filed a case against his wife as early as Aug. 22, 2006, for withdrawing "substantial" amounts of money from the couple's conjugal fund while he was in Europe with President Arroyo on her state visit.

"My client was waiting for her [in Europe] but she went to San Francisco, to Hong Kong, where she was [billeted at the] Waldorf Astoria," Duque said.

Her client cut her off before she could go further into the topic.

Congressman Arroyo was also quiet on the other allegations made by his wife, such as his being a womanizer and gambler, saying he preferred to answer them in court.

"We do everything by the law. I am a lawmaker. We have to follow the law," he said.

When asked if he knew Grace Ibuna, whom his wife had identified as his mistress, he replied: "She is not part of this conversation. As far as knowing her, I cannot deny that. In fact, I know a lot of other people."

Motive

Congressman Arroyo, who said the case had not affected his campaign for reelection, also declined to speculate on his wife's motive for making the case public.

But Duque supplied it for him.

Said the lawyer: "We are saddened by Attorney Kapunan's actions, and we are contemplating filing a motion for contempt. It is really very disappointing for her not to realize that what she is doing is wrong. She is identified with the opposition; the opposition has been using this."

Why Arroyo wife sought protection

From page A1

be "very protective" of his wife and child, "suddenly and surprisingly" pulled out their security complement and their drivers.

- With their marriage on the rocks, her husband "surreptitiously" obtained from the National Western Life Insurance Co. a $1-million life insurance policy on her, and "included as beneficiaries his two daughters from a previous marriage" that had been annulled.

According to Alicia, she can be "assassinated at any time" by men "acting under the instructions" of her husband.

Burly men

Alicia Arroyo told the court that by the end of June 2006, her husband had pulled out her security detail and reduced the security personnel assigned to their child from four to one, thus exposing them to "serious security threats."

She said "burly-looking armed men" had been tailing her for months, and provided the court pictures of men supposedly following her car or staking out a vacant area across from the conjugal home in La Vista, Quezon City.

She added that "these men would closely stalk" her even when she entered buildings and other private places, and that Presidential Security Group vehicles and other "suspicious vehicles" constantly parked in front of the family residence and followed her vehicle whenever she left the house.

On Wednesday, Judge Rosalina L. Luna Pison issued a 30-day court protection order barring Representative Arroyo, from "harassing, annoying, telephoning, contacting or communicating" with his wife and child.

Pison ordered the lawmaker, under pain of contempt of court, a fine and imprisonment of six months, "to stay away at a distance of 100 meters" from Alicia, their daughter, and other family or household members either in their residence, the child's school, or his wife's office.

Policy owner

By her account, Alicia Arroyo discovered the insurance policy at about the same time the security detail assigned to her and the child was pulled out.

She claimed that she tried to terminate the policy, but was told that only her husband could terminate it "as owner of the policy."

Reached by phone on Thursday, Representative Arroyo said Alicia was lying. He declined to comment further, citing a "gag order" from the court which had set the pretrial conference and preliminary conference on March 29.

But he asked the INQUIRER to try to secure a copy of the insurance policy.

A source, who had asked not to be named for fear of being cited in contempt by the court, said it was Alicia who had applied for the insurance policy and signed it, with her child as the beneficiary.

The source also said the policy lapsed last year.

A copy of the policy obtained by the INQUIRER showed that the beneficiaries of the policy signed on April 25, 2005, were the father (primary beneficiary) and daughter (contingent beneficiary).

A letter to Representative Arroyo—dated Dec. 29, 2006, and signed by Ana Ramirez of the insurance company's International Client Service Department—confirmed that the policy lapsed on Oct. 24, 2006, "due to the fact that we did not receive the semi-annual premium of $4,760.00."

The policy showed that Alicia Arroyo had a net worth of $2.081 million, the bulk of which was broken down into: $225,000 (cash in bank), $1.5 million (real estate) and $400,000 (business interest).

Full-time housewife

Alicia said that after having been "constrained" by her husband to "become a full-time housewife," she was "suddenly left to shoulder at least P400,000 in monthly expenses."

However, she said, his purported mistress, whom she identified as Grace Ibuna-Javier, was "financially provided for" by him by "placing her on the payroll of the Philippine Waterworks Association."

Alicia said that "just like the mistresses" of her husband's relatives, his mistress "frequented" the [Arroyo-owned] LTA Building in Makati City and "spent her afternoons there."

"And just like the other mistresses," Alicia said, the lawmaker's mistress "enjoyed out-of-the-country trips."

Representative Arroyo, who represents the fifth district of Negros Occidental, denied that Ibuna-Javier was his mistress.

But the woman was seen in his company during the birthday party on March 19 of Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon in Bacolod City.

Some of the Team Unity senatorial candidates as well as local political leaders were among those present at the birthday celebration.

According to Representative Arroyo, Ibuna-Javier is "a friend."

With a report from Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

Unique project: Cops teach 3 Rs to school kids

From page A1

that we can also be civic workers and teachers," Bataoil says.

The program started early this year and is ongoing in three schools: San Marcelino Elementary School in Dingras, Ilocos Norte; Bachelor East Elementary School in Natividad, Pangasinan; and Alibangsay Elementary School in Bagulin.

Nine policemen from the police Regional Mobile Group (RMG), the unit implementing the project, have been assigned to teach in the village schools.

The program

The Alibangsay Elementary School in Bagulin has 150 students, three classrooms and three teachers who handle Grades 1 to 6.

The teachers teach one group of students and then send them off to teach the other students, while they teach another batch of students.

"The pupils do not get the quality and quantity of education they need," says Supt. Dionicio Borromeo, RMG group director in the Ilocos.

Under the program, Mapalo has taken over Grade 1 which has 30 pupils. He teaches them reading and writing.

"PULIS KO, TITSER KO," in action: A volunteer cop teaches preschool children in Dingras, Ilocos Norte. Looking on is P/Supt. Dionicio Borromeo, who introduced this unique program together with the Department of Education for the Ilocos regional police to implement in areas that lack teachers. FRANK CIMATU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Mapalo says the children are not scared of him, even if sometimes, he goes to school in combat uniform.

Guyab, father of two, teaches Grade 3. He says he misses his family, but teaching kids cheers him up.

No pay but fulfilled

Although Mapalo and Guyab do not get additional compensation from the program, they say they feel "fulfilled" teaching children.

Borromeo says the RMG plans to go a step further in helping the Alibangsay Elementary School. They plan to convert a covered area in the school compound into classrooms. All they have to do is put up walls—perhaps using *sawali* (woven bamboo slats)—and lay fresh concrete to make a floor.

Excited to join the program is PO1 Juan Victorio, 28, one of the policemen-teachers assigned to the San Marcelino Elementary School in Dingras, Ilocos Norte.

Victorio used to be a teacher at the Labrador High School in Labrador, Pangasinan. Despite having a master's degree in industrial education, technically, he was a casual clerk, earning P6,000 a month.

"I love teaching. My mother is a teacher and she raised us well, but I felt like I hit a blank wall," Victorio recounts. After four years in the teaching profession, he quit and joined the police force.

Wanted: More teachers

PO1 Nowell Tejada Aguinaldo, a licensed elementary school teacher and member of the 1st RMG based in Marcos, Ilocos Norte, is the first policeman-teacher in the program.

He substituted for Marjorie Prieto, Grade 5 section B adviser of San Marcelino Elementary School.

Artemio Florendo, DepEd supervisor in La Union's first district, says the program's impact has yet to be assessed since it started late in the school year.

Florendo, however, is thankful for the extra teachers, especially in the remote areas. "We really need additional teachers," he says.

Police before teachers

According to Borromeo many schools have requested for policemen-teachers, but "we cannot really answer everyone's needs."

And because they are "policemen first before teachers," Borromeo says the program is possible only in schools located near a detachment, just in case, the policemen-teachers were needed in emergency operations.

But all provincial mobile groups in the region will soon adopt a school each, which means an additional seven schools will get assistance from the program.

Credentials

The program started when regional police officers were reviewing the credentials of the recruits in the Ilocos early this year.

They discovered that about 5 percent of the recruits were graduates of education courses with some of them passing the teacher's eligibility exams. Some had years of teaching experience.

"We decided to use the human resources where they can best be used—to teach the children," Bataoil says.

The policemen-teachers not only help in educating children, they have gained the support of the community in the fight against insurgency in the areas where they are assigned, he says.

Goma: There's no turning back

TACLOBAN CITY—POPULAR ACTOR AND senatorial candidate Richard Gomez said that there is no turning back in his bid to gain a seat in the Senate despite financial problems hounding his campaign.

Gomez, who was in Leyte on Thursday to woo its close to 1 million voters, admitted that running as an independent candidate is not a joke. He said that unlike other candidates who are running under a political party, he had to depend on his own financial resources and those given by some of his friends and supporters.

A senatorial candidate reportedly requires between P150 million to P200 million to sustain a nationwide campaign. Gomez declined to reveal his campaign budget.

But Gomez said that he was happy that several of his show biz friends are providing moral support and even contributed to his campaign funds.

"There are several of them who really helped me in my campaign," Gomez said. He mentioned actresses Ruffa Gutierrez and Gretchen Barretto.

Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas

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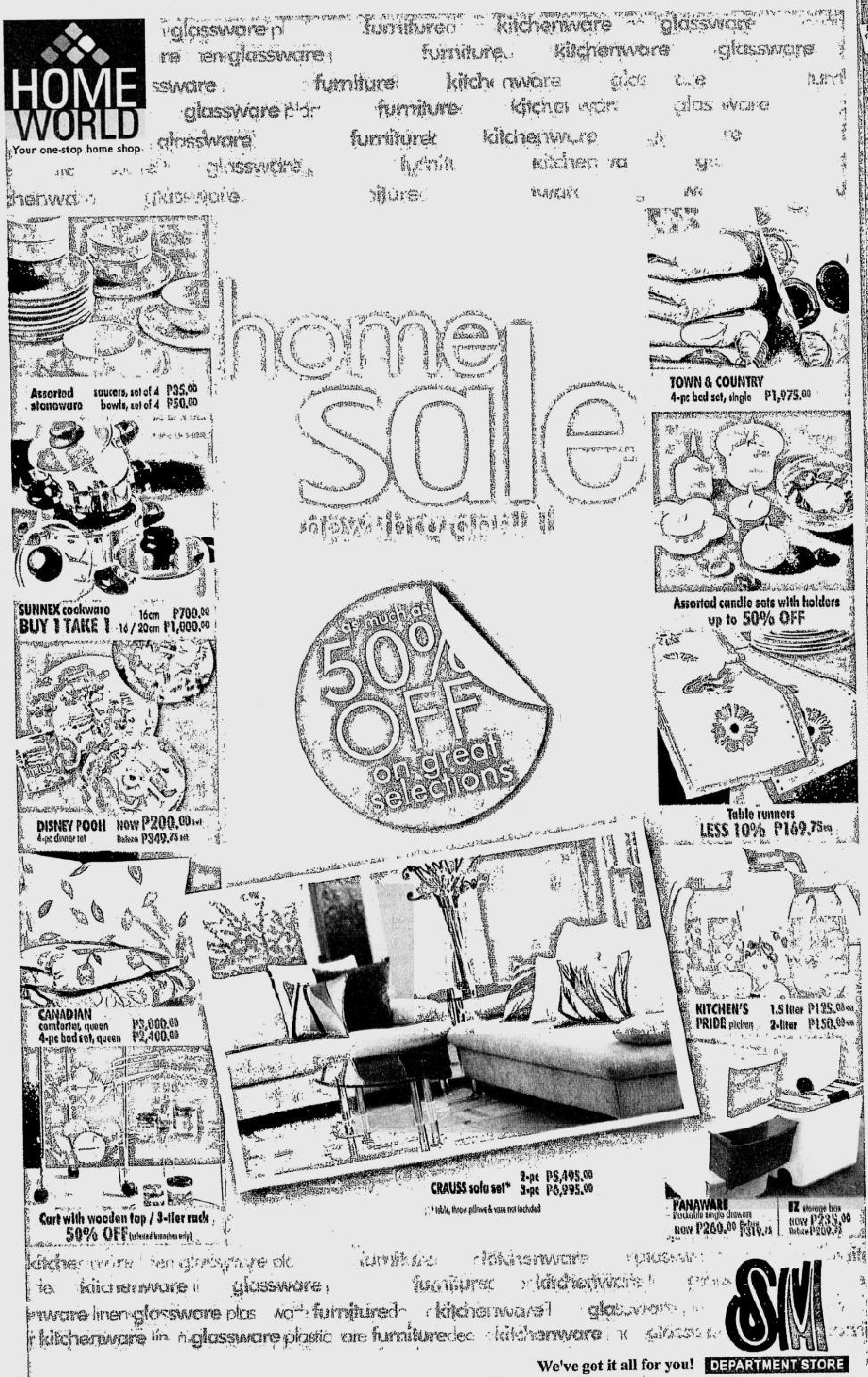

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Heads to roll over P365.8-M lampposts

From page A1

Mandaue cities, and other officials involved in the transaction be placed under preventive suspension.

An Ombudsman fact-finding committee also found that there was collusion between the winning bidders and those who prepared the program of works for the project, said Virginia Palanca-Santiago, the acting deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas.

Investigator Rod Blazo, who headed the committee, said the collusion was clear because the program works and bids submitted by the winning bidders, Fabmik and Gapmik Construction, showed the identical figures.

"It is impossible that both documents would reflect the same figures," he said.

The unit price for the lampposts, which were imported from China and sold to the DPWH, was P50,000. But the lampposts actually only cost from P1,400 to P11,750, according to the fact-finding committee.

The total price for the lampposts escalated from P83,000 to P224,000 after the "installation" costs were added.

Subject to investigation

The Ombudsman Visayas recommended that the following officials be investigated for graft, dishonesty or grave misconduct: DPWH Regional Director Robert Lala, Assistant Regional Director Marlina Alvizo, DPWH 7 maintenance head Pureza Fernandez and other DPWH officials involved in the signing of checks; Mandaue Mayor Thadeo Ouano and Lapu-Lapu Mayor Arturo Radaza and the officials of the engineering departments of the two cities which drew up the program of works and cost estimates.

"The committee made a recommendation for preventive suspension but we will leave that to the lawyer who will be handling the case," Santiago said, adding that the case would be raffled on Monday to determine which Ombudsman officer would handle it.

Radaza and other Lapu-Lapu City officials were included in the complaint after whistle-blower Crisologo Saavedra, the original complainant, filed another motion yesterday for their inclusion.

Santiago explained that the complaint did not include Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña because the city of Cebu did not participate in the preparation of the program of works for the street lighting project.

Unlike in Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu cities, the Cebu City government was not involved in the P800-million DPWH beautification project for the Asean summit in the four Metro Cebu cities.

Osmeña decided to leave the matter entirely to the DPWH.

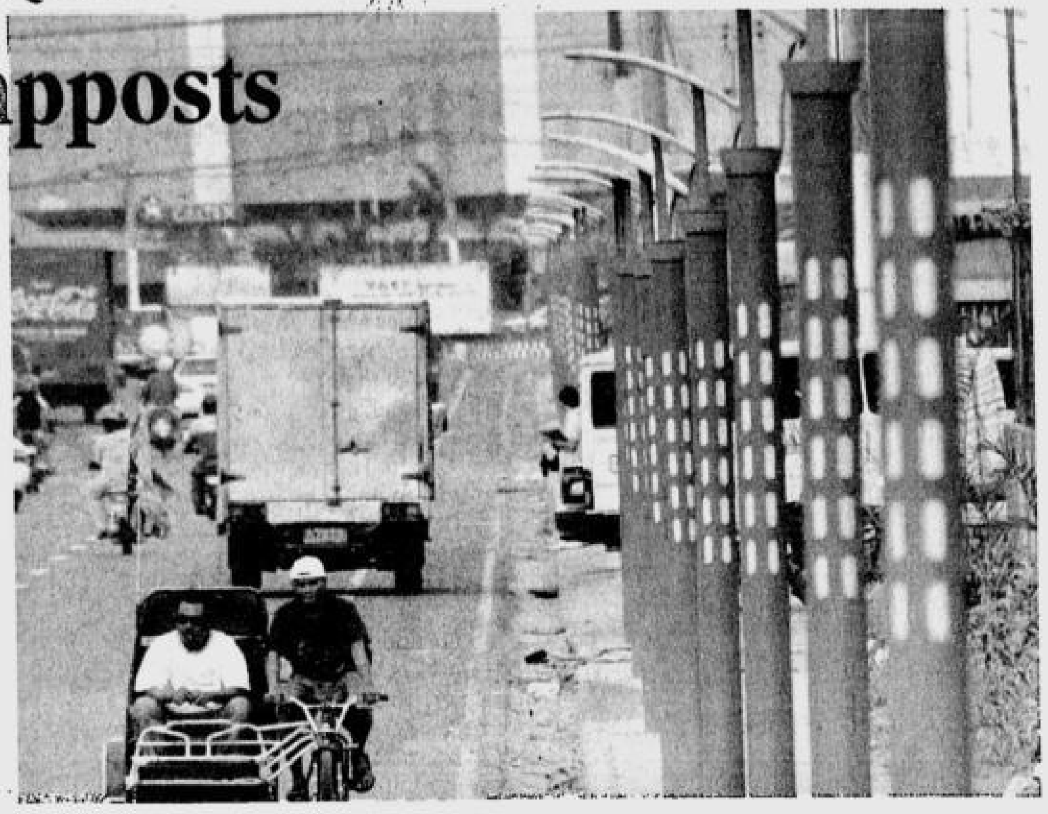
With the upgrading of the case, Santiago said the Ombudsman Visayas office was now a cocomplainant in the case originally filed by Bayan and Saavedra.

Separate probe of private resort

.Santiago said there could be a separate case filed on the controversial installation of about 30 decorative lampposts in a private resort in Lapu-Lapu City.

The winning bidders, Fabmik and Gampik Construction, supplied 1,800 decorative lamps installed in the cities of Cebu, Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu. Fabmik supplied the 450 streetlights installed in the cities of Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu.

"The blatant violation is the bid proposal submitted by the bidder, which is the same as in the program of works, exactly the same to the last centavo. The program of works, for example, from the city government of Mandaue is the same as the bid proposal submitted by the Fabmik," Blazo said in his report.



MASSIVE OVERPRICING: Lampposts installed along Ouano Avenue in Mandaue City. LITO TECSON/CDN

The fact-finding investigation showed that the controversial decorative lampposts installed in three cities here for the Southeast Asian leaders summit in January did not just cost the government P120 million but P365.8 million.

A DPWH document submitted to the Ombudsman Visayas showed that 724 of the 1,800 decorative lamps and 248 of the 450 streetlights were installed in Lapu-Lapu City, with the total cost reaching P174.8 million.

The same document showed that 453 decorative lamps and 202 streetlights costing P130.02 million were installed in Mandaue City and 683 decorative lamps worth P61.050 million were installed in Cebu City.

The document, submitted by Lala to Acting Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan on March 12, was meant to "shed light" on the huge difference in the price of the decorative street lamps installed in Cebu City and in Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu cities. But it only raised more questions.

Only P50,000 each

According to the DPWH documents, the lampposts, while they differed in design and height, actually cost the same: P50,000 each. The price included the cost of transport, freight and handling and the customs duties from China, the port of origin, to its destination.

Furthermore, import records submitted to the Ombudsman showed that each lamppost, sold to the DPWH by the two contractors at P50,000 each, actually only cost P1,400 each in China.

The unit price escalated to as much as P350,000 after the DPWH, based on the programs of works submitted by the city governments of Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu, added into the per unit price the installation and other so-called "indirect" costs.

Curiously, the cost for installing the same lampposts in Cebu City was at least three times lower than in Mandaue City considering that the same civil works were required in putting up the lampposts, according to the DPWH documents.

7 times higher

The cost to put up the lampposts in Mandaue City was seven times higher than that of Cebu City even if they required the same amount of civil works, according to a document prepared by the DPWH in Central Visayas.

The unit cost of the electrical works for the apex-like lampposts installed in Cebu City was P8,500, the civil works, P5,500 and the indirect cost P19,250.

By contrast, the unit cost of the dome-like lampposts installed in Mandaue City required P54,511 for electrical works, P61,353 for civil works and P58,630 for indirect costs.

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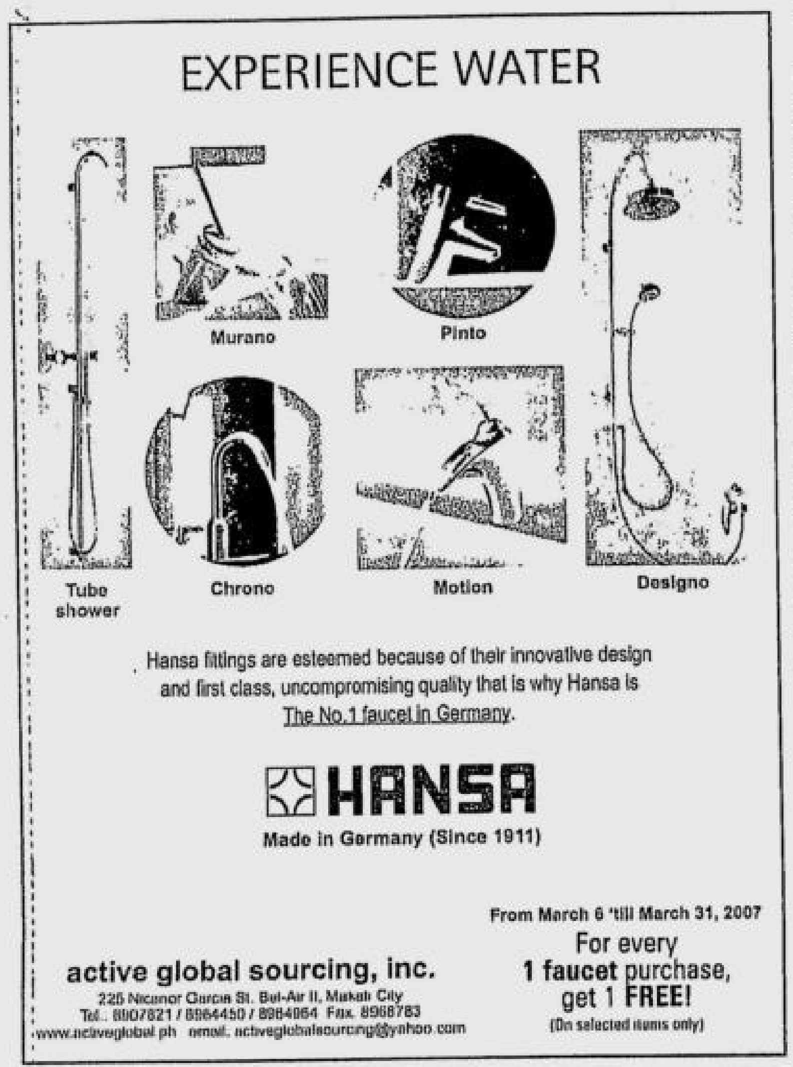

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Pinoys' giving behavior: They give little, says SWS

From page A1

nation's daily consciousness.

The nationwide survey on Filipino giving behavior was conducted during the period of Oct. 1 to 8, 2006 among 1,200 respondents aged 17 to 65 across four socio-economic classes.

Previous surveys on the topic were done but only within the National Capital Region. This is the first nationwide survey on giving.

Roberto, who writes a column for the INQUIRER business section, said that within the NCR—which had the biggest number of givers—the highest awareness level for organizations advocating care for orphans and street children was 62 percent.

"That 62 percent is low. Yet it is the highest," he said, "especially when compared to the country's awareness of politicians, some of whom can get a rating of 99-100 percent."

"The fundamental challenge is to raise the awareness. So the campaign should be on habituation, on mainstreaming into their consciousness," Roberto said during the launch at EPCI Tower I in Makati City that was attended by NGOs and POs.

Other causes like care for the indigenous people had an even lower rating of 8 percent, he noted.

Why the low awareness

One reason for the low awareness, Roberto said, was that the cause-oriented sector was very fragmented. He noted that there were 150,000 NGOs and POs, of which only 3,000 were officially registered.

"It's time to consolidate. If you don't consolidate, you will disappear from the face of the earth," he said. "Everything starts with awareness."

However, Roberto said that Filipinos were generally concerned when it came to important causes.

Top causes

The survey named the 15 top causes: Education; orphans and street children; needs of abused women; white slavery/prostitution; family planning/reproductive health; health and nutrition; employment, livelihood and credit; fisherfolk (deemed as the poorest of the poor in the country); farmers; housing for the poor; environment and preservation of endangered species; out-of-school youth and juvenile delinquents; rehabilitation of drug dependents; caring for the elderly and disabled; caring for the indigenous people or cultural minorities.

The survey also showed that the frequency of giving was very low—only 12 times a year at most, or once a year at least.

As such, Roberto urged the forum to design a campaign which would persuade people to give "more often" or to donate a "higher amount" or both, since there was room to expand the "giving" market.

Keep the change

He joked that he was not fond of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' "Ang Barya ay Mahalaga" (coins are important) campaign.

"The Central Bank should phase out coins so that givers will give a higher amount. What's the difference between P1 and 80 centavos? It's so small when you're only giving once a month," Roberto said in jest.

The survey also showed that the biggest market for organizations raising funds for social causes was the NCR, where awareness was highest. He said the charitable market in the NCR was 11 times bigger than the rest of Luzon, 16 times bigger than in Visayas and 10 times bigger than Mindanao.

This market size, he said, could be used by fund-raisers in setting quantitative targets when tapping various regions, especially those outside the NCR.

Thus, there was potential to raise by 20-25 percent the amount which can be raised by cause-oriented groups across the country, Roberto said.

He also urged these groups to focus on specific areas where they already have the expertise.

Top attitudes

Within the NCR, he said the five top attitudes on giving were:

- Giving only to known beneficiaries
- Giving by budgeting, without exceeding the allotment
- Doing to one's own way without being influenced by any organization's campaign
- Giving only to beneficiaries deemed as "responsible" beneficiaries
- Giving because the order is not enough.

Social norms

Roberto said one surprising result of the survey was that it debunked the age-old belief of social psychologists that the act of giving was influenced by attitude.

"The giving behavior is not a function of attitude. Stop trying to influence attitude because this is not why people are not giving," he said.

Behavior could be explained by other factors such as social norms. "If in the community, the norm is to give only once a month, then people will most likely give only once a month," Roberto said.

Role model

He said behavior could also be influenced by a reference person who becomes a role model. Other possible factors cited were:

- Perceived consistence in self-image, such as what will make a person feel good about himself/herself
- Perceived capacity or skill for the behavior
- Perceived barriers or environmental constraint.

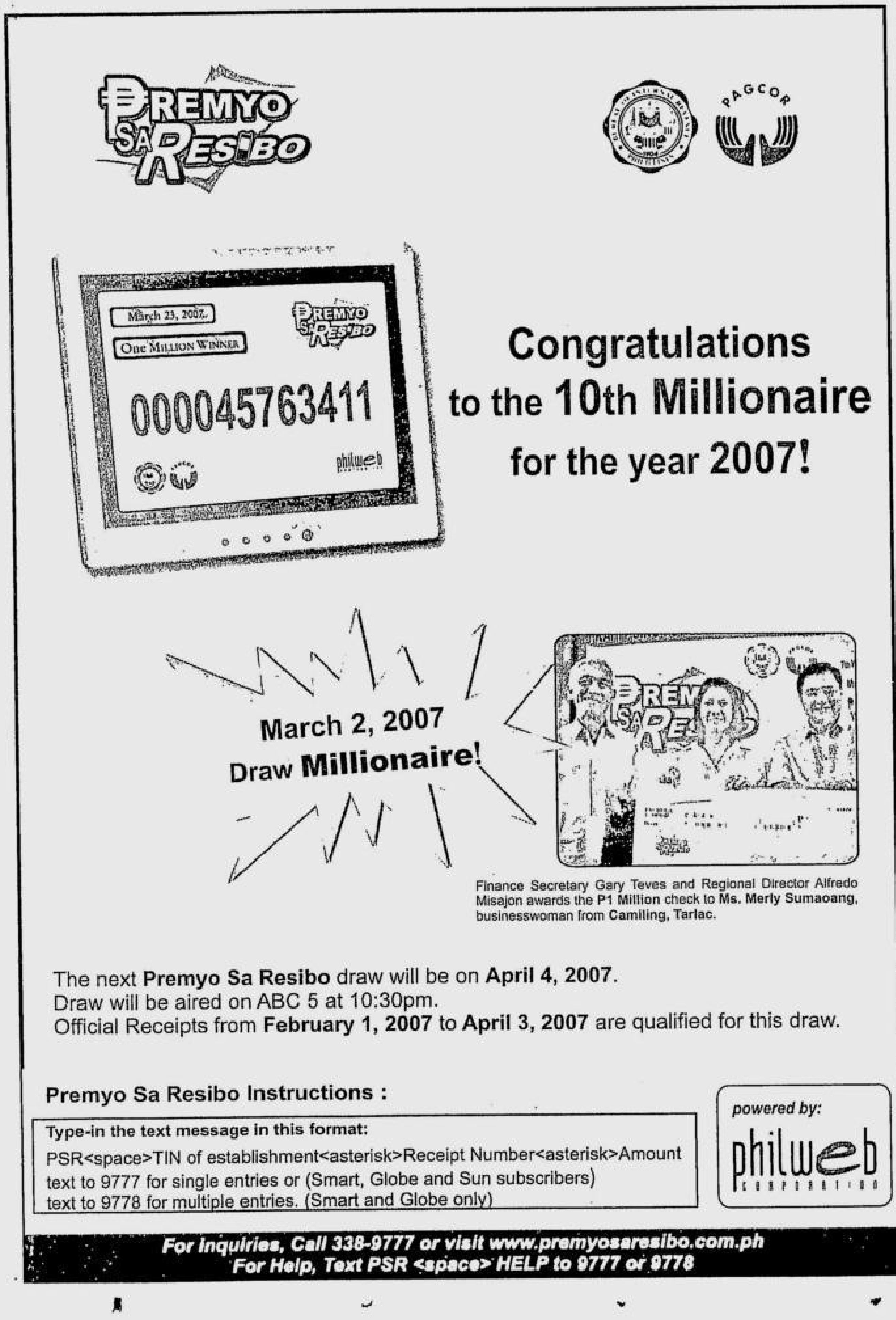
The last factor was a product of social marketing. "If it's too much of a bother, then it can influence the frequency of giving," Roberto explained.

In conclusion, he urged the NGOs and POs to continue testing which factors were the true driver of the giving behavior.

Online donations

The newly launched online giving portal Equipay is a partnership between Equitable Card Network and AsiaPay, a provider of Internet mobile payment and technology in the region.

The portal seeks to make online donations available to the country's nonprofit segment, inspired by the experience in Hong Kong where web-based giving and online credit card donations online had made significant impact with charities in the former British colony.



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Serge O confident GO will win

By Norman Bordadora

ALL CANDIDATES OF THE GENuine Opposition will have improved chances of winning in the coming elections, says new GO campaign manager Sen. Sergio Osmeña III.

"All the candidates will have a better chance of winning because I will treat all of them the same (the way I will help a party mate like Aquilino Pimentel III)," Osmeña told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Osmeña and Pimentel are partymates in the PDP-Laban.

Osmeña said there would also be closer "continual" coordination between the campaign headquarters and the individual candidates' respective campaign staff, a more aggressive media program and a "streamlined" sortie schedule.

"There will be no central command but there will be coordination," he added.

Osmeña said there would be fewer sorties in lieu of a more aggressive media campaign.

"We beefed up our media staff. I suppose our stories will now be aired and see publication," Osmeña said.

Osmeña believes it is more efficient to campaign via the media than by shaking hands in public markets.

"There are 1,200 cities and municipalities in the country ... It is impossible to reach all of them in a 90-day campaign," Osmeña said.

Osmeña took over as campaign manager two weeks ago. He is also the GO point-man in anti-electoral fraud operations.

Sources in the GO coalition said he was tapped to replace Joseph Victor Ejercito because of his experience in running national political campaigns and his seniority and stature as a two-term senator.

But Ejercito will stay on as Osmeña's deputy in Metro Manila.

"I want to solidify the national capital region's vote for the Genuine Opposition," Ejercito said in a recent interview.

With Osmeña's takeover, the GO headquarters will transfer from Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong to the Manila Bank building along Ayala Avenue in Makati City.

Sources in the GO campaign said one of the features of the new headquarters is a media center equipped with broadband and wireless Internet services for journalists' easy transmittal of stories to their respective news desks.

"Our aim is to reach via the media, the places that we can't reach physically," he added.

GO spokesperson Adel Tamano said the opposition has also adopted a new strategy in its campaign to cover more areas.

The tactic which he called the "GO blitz" will also require the candidates to visit local radio and TV stations and local print journalists.

But Osmeña said there would still be rallies especially in major cities and regional centers. These rallies, he said, will also serve as GO's proclamation rallies for its local and congressional candidates.

As this developed, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada is also raring to help in GO's campaign.

"Senator Osmeña is the one to decide ... He will be the one to instruct me where to go ... what to do," Estrada told the INQUIRER minutes after arriving yesterday from Hong Kong. "We talk almost every day over the phone," he added.

With a report from Tarra Quismundo

Sparrow units set comeback, says AFP

By Alcuin Papa

COMMUNIST REBELS may be trying to establish a foothold in Metro Manila to revive their urban assassination squads known as "sparrow units," police and military officials said yesterday.

Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino said it was to blunt this attempt to revive the urban guerrilla campaign of the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, that the military was deploying soldiers in the urban poor areas of Metro Manila.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. We are preventing them from coming here," Tolentino said.

He said the NPA was trying to build an "advance staging point" in the Payatas area.

Twenty-five other poor neighborhoods have been targeted as NPA operations bases, Tolentino said, adding that the infiltration was at an early stage.

Similar NPA attempts have been monitored in large provincial cities like Cebu in the Visayas, he added.

Director Wilfredo Garcia, chief of the Directorate for Operations of the Philippine National Police, said the police organization has received the same information, that the NPA has deployed armed units in the cities.

He said the PNP was still verifying the information but "we cannot disregard it."

The NPA "sparrow units" earned that moniker because of the speed with which they carried out assassinations and their ability to disappear and blend with the population. The group assassinated about 200 soldiers and police in Manila in the late 1980s in a bid to speed up the pace of the rebellion.

Tolentino stressed he had no plans to reverse the controversial policy to garrison some military units, normally engaged in remote rural areas, in the urban areas. *With AFP*

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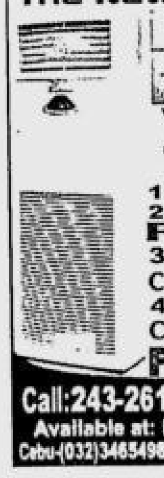
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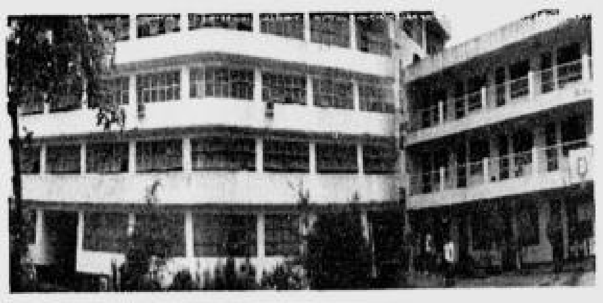
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Ping hit for divide-and-rule ploy on Lakas

By Christian V. Esguerra

LAWMAKERS BELONGING TO THE Lakas-CMD yesterday described Sen. Panfilo Lacson's claim that the party was negotiating with the Genuine Opposition for a possible alliance at the local government level in the May elections as a "divide-and-rule tactic."

Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan, Lakas secretary general, said there was "no logical reason" for the ruling coalition of Lakas and the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) to disintegrate.

"Sorry, Ping, but we will never be divided and we will continue to rule in the political arena," he said in a statement.

On Thursday, Lacson said that confidantes of former President Fidel V. Ramos, Lakas chair emeritus, have started "backroom negotiations" with opposition officials for a possible Lakas-GO alliance at the local level due to Lakas' ongoing dispute with Kampi, the political party of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Kampi has been raiding the ranks of Lakas, its coalition partner, to boost its power base and extend its influence beyond the end of Ms Arroyo's term in 2010.

"Probably they (Kampi) are not so comfortable with Lakas having the leadership in the House," Lacson said.

But Libanan, who belongs to the committee ironing out disputes between Lakas and Kampi candidates in the local level, dismissed Lacson's claim, saying the senator was sowing seeds of intrigue to "create a crack wide enough for (coalition) members to split."

Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Isidoro Real, Lakas chair for Western Mindanao, said Lacson was merely bluffing when he floated the possible Lakas-GO alliance.

"If it's not FVR (Ramos) or JDV (House Speaker Jose de Venecia) talking, Ping's statement is just a joke," he said. "There's simply no basis for such partnership."

Libanan admitted that there was an expected "turf war" between "powerhouse" political parties in Lakas and Kampi, which were both fielding separate candidates in many areas.

To settle the disputes, Lakas and Kampi have set up an arbitration panel which has adopted the "equity of the incumbent" rule. But in cases where an amicable settlement was far-fetched, both parties agreed to field separate candidates.

Chief of these areas are the President's home province Pampanga, and nearby Batangas.

The Pampanga gubernatorial race is expected to pit incumbent Gov. Mark Lapid against Lilia Pineda of Kampi. In Batangas, Lakas' outgoing Lipa Mayor Vilma Santos is running against incumbent Gov. Armando Sanchez who had recently joined Kampi.

'Let's both keep Kris out of this'

By Cynthia D Balana

TABACO CITY—TEAM UNITY SENATORIAL candidate Tessie Aquino-Oreta yesterday promised not to mention the name of her niece, actress Kris Aquino, during the campaign if her nephew and Kris' brother, Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy," Aquino III did the same.

Oreta made the promise to deny that she was just riding on the popularity of her niece when she stated that Kris would have made a better politician than Noynoy. Noynoy replied by asking his aunt not to drag Kris' name at this time when she is in a delicate phase of her pregnancy.

Interviewed by reporters during the Team Unity campaign sorties in the Bicol region, Oreta said Noynoy got it wrong. She said it was not her intention to drag Kris in the campaign to boost her chances in the May senatorial elections.

Oreta, now a Born-Again member who has quit smoking, said she was just replying to the INQUIRER reporter who asked if she would give way to Kris if the latter were to run for senator.

"If that's his advice to me, then it's also my advice to him," she said.

Oreta denied there was a rift between her and Noynoy, who is running for senator under the Genuine Opposition. The coalition had rejected Oreta as a senatorial candidate and instead drafted Noynoy, a member of the Liberal Party.

"He's not hostile to me," Oreta said. "In fact, it's Nonoy who's closest to us. I don't know, maybe he did not know the circumstances when I said it. It was just an answer to the INQUIRER reporter and I just answered."

Comfort and Luxury Designed Anew In the All New 2007 Honda CR-V

With its recent introduction to the Philippine auto market, the All New 2007 Honda CR-V is designed and clearly destined to become an aggressive contender in the compact luxury SUV class. Endowed with a new, more muscular stance in addition to this crossover SUV's top-rate design features, the 2007 Honda CR-V also showcases a higher standard in luxury and comfort unseen in its predecessor.

The new 2007 Honda CR-V boasts of a multitude of luxury amenities that makes it stand out in its class. The vehicle's reduced body weight and optimal placement of soundproofing materials eliminates outside noise and excess vibration due to idling or acceleration at high speeds, resulting in an exceptionally serene and relaxing ride.

Apart from its older kin, the New 2007 Honda CR-V now sports a wider, more spacious interior — providing passengers with generous seating space in plush, sedan-like comfort. Full seats, as well as 60:40 split type rear seats can be folded down and forward, maximizing space utility for passenger seating as well as cargo. The 8-Way, power-driven seat controls with lumbar support settings optimizes comfort for occupants.

Up front, the center console is built with cup holders for two, plus an ergonomically-designed storage box with ample space for CDs and other small items. An external audio auxiliary port and accessory socket provided for various applications is also smartly incorporated into the center console. A convenient double-level glove box provides more convenient storage space for front seat occupants. A large-sized rear armrest, also equipped with cup holders for two increases seating comfort for rear passengers.

Crisp, high fidelity audio makes for a more relaxing and enjoyable ride in the new 2007 Honda CR-V thanks to its state-of-the-art stereo system with 6-CD changer, complete with anti-theft function for added security.

Other embellishments like a handy sunglasses box and a conversation mirror that allows front seat occupants to easily see rear seat riders add extra convenience and flexibility for front side passengers while map lights with ambient blue LED lighting greatly enhance the 2007 Honda CR-V's luxurious, sophisticated interior atmosphere.

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Pag-asa allays fears of forecasters' exodus

WEATHER BUREAU OFFICIALS yesterday allayed public apprehension over the exodus of forecasters abroad and said they have an adequate number of weather specialists watching the skies every day and a pool of new trainees beefing up their manpower every year.

"There's no reason to be alarmed about the exodus. We've had this exodus before, and we've been able to address that problem," Dr. Prisco Nilo, deputy director for operations of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, said in a briefing.

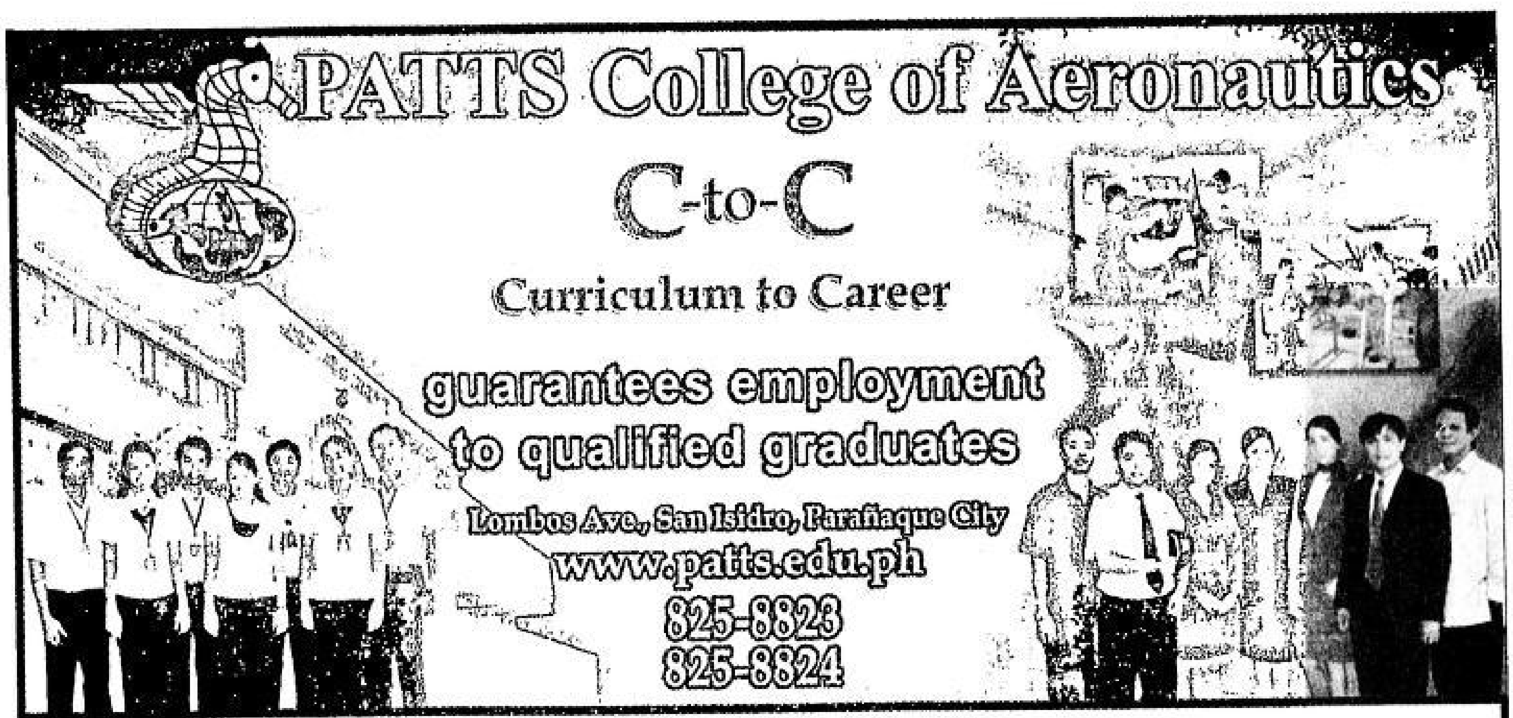
With last month's departure of two weather specialists, the bureau's forecasting section has managed to fill the vacuum by tapping meteorologists from other branches and has functioned without any hitches, Nilo said.

"We have a sufficient number of weather specialists," he said, even as he admitted that Pagasa is looking at hiring 10 more weather specialists. There are at least 30 meteorologists at the weather branch, including 13 forecasters working on three shifts a day.

The world marked the Meteorological Day yesterday.

While its hiring program had been hobbled by the government's "rationalization program," the bureau has been relying on its training program which produces an average of 20 meteorologists every year to boost its manpower, Nilo said.

Two Pagasa weather specialists II were "pirated" by a Singapore-based company for a similar, but a higher paying job abroad last month, highlighting the brain drain that has beset the agency since the 1990s. *TJ Burgonio*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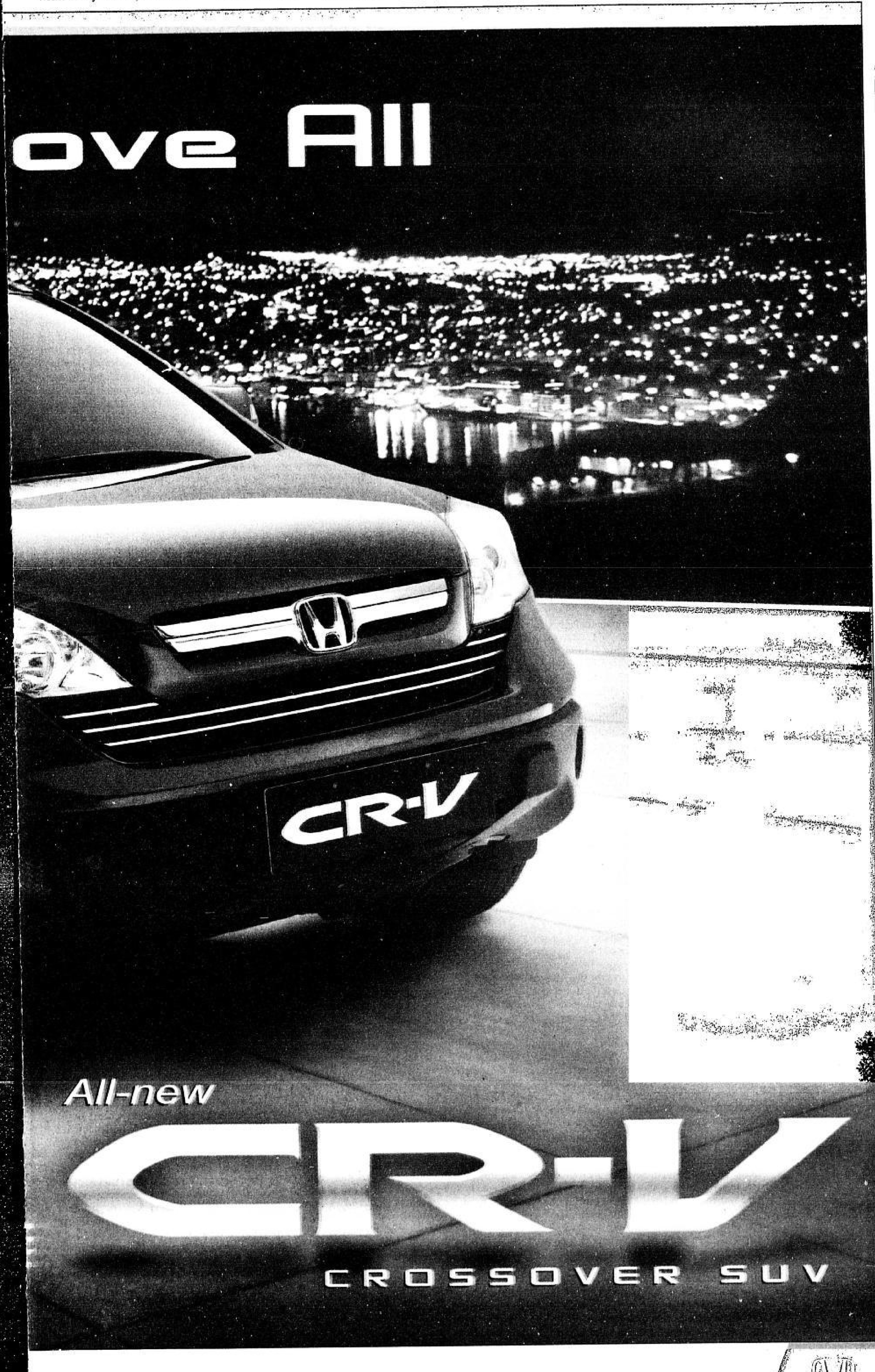

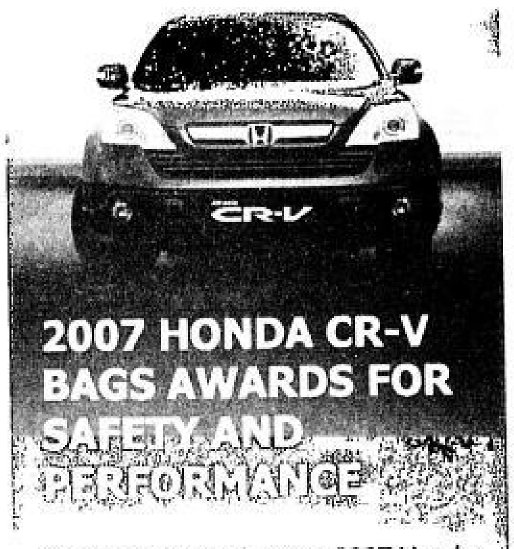

2007 HONDA CR-V BAGS AWARDS FOR SAFETY AND PERFORMANCE

It's finally here. The New 2007 Honda CR-V, the latest addition to Honda's line of performance automobiles, promises to break new grounds in our country's motoring landscape.A crossover vehicle that redefines power and style, the new 2007 Honda CR-V scores very high marks in safety as well. Standard-equipped with an Advanced Compatibility Engineering (ACE) body structure, energy dispersion via a network of load bearing structures during frontal collisions is greatly enhanced. The 2007 Honda CR-V also comes with a Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA) System that includes Anti-Lock Brake system (ABS), Traction Control System (TCS) and sideslip control that results in steadier and more precise handling.

With its outstanding safety performance, the 2007 Honda CR-V has received 5-star frontal and 5-star side impact ratings from the National Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA). A government agency under the Department of Transportation in the United States, the National Traffic Safety Association is responsible for setting safety standards vital to automobile design, as well as verifying compliance of various car manufacturers to safety mandates and regulations. The agency utilizes highly-advanced crash-rating dummies to identify applied forces and immediate effects on passengers during frontal and side collisions.

The All New 2007 Honda CR-V has also been recognized as the year's "Top Safety Pick" by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) in the United States. The award was a result of the organization's extensive study and testing of the Honda CR-V, including frontal-offset, side and rear impact tests. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety is an independent, non-profit research and communications organization dedicated solely to reducing highway crash injuries, deaths and property damages due to design flaws in automobiles.

With its overall values and attributes, the New 2007 Honda CR-V has also been named Consumer Guide Automotive's "Best Buy" Compact SUV. Considered as an indispensable guide for the prospective car buyer, Consumer Guide Automotive uses objective criteria such as price, features, performance, accommodations, fuel economy, reliability records and resale value in order to make car buying easier for the average consumer.

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Bargaining season

EDITORIAL

THE PLEA BARGAIN OF CHARLIE "ATONG" ANG that allowed him to evade a possible life sentence appears to have given certain parties an idea of how to pull off their own maneuvers.

Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot, a retired comptroller of the Armed Forces who along with members of his family is facing charges at the Sandiganbayan for amassing P135 million in unexplained wealth, has offered to surrender almost P21 million worth of assets in exchange for the dropping of the charges. In submitting the compromise offer to state prosecutors, the lawyers of Ligot et al. said it should not be taken as an admission of wrongdoing and could not be used as evidence against them.

The temerity is not only breathtaking but also illustrative of the perverted sense of entitlement that afflicts those in high positions. (Recall how the sons of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, Ligot's successor as AFP comptroller, were caught by US agents in 2003 smuggling thousands of dollars into the United States, and how their mother demanded the confiscated cash back, saying it was "gratitude money" from people to whom her husband had awarded lucrative contracts. Garcia himself is charged with plunder and perjury for unexplained wealth amounting to more than P300 million.) How unfortunate that all the AFP could muster by way of reaction was that it would be "inappropriate" to comment because Ligot had already retired from the military.

In case the details have been forgotten in the mad flurry of issues bombarding the body politic, Ligot and his family are said to own real property both in the Philippines (expensive condo units and assorted farms) and in the United States (two houses in California). These are among the assets that he is proposing to surrender along with a couple of used vehicles.

It has yet to be explained how the man, a 1970 Philippine Military Academy graduate, was able to go up in the world in this manner, considering that by his own admission at a congressional inquiry in 2005, he entered the AFP with no property to speak of and retired in 2004 with assets of only P3 million. (In that same inquiry he kept a tight lip, invoking his right against self-incrimination 21 times.)

Indeed, as the redoubtable Imelda Marcos liked to say, some are smarter than others.

That Malacañang quickly declared that the government was not entertaining Ligot's compromise offer is to its credit. "We owe it to our soldiery and the people to act in their supreme interest, and there can be no bargains in this regard" was how Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye articulated the Palace stand. (But given the existing record, and as they like to say in Missouri, show me.)

Former Solicitor General Frank Chavez—whose Operation Clean Hands filed in 2005 a P67-million plunder case against Ligot with the Office of the Ombudsman, which served as basis for the graft cases against the ex-comptroller at the Sandiganbayan—served notice that the antigraft advocacy group would fight Ligot's compromise offer.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio exhibited his own disdain, but specifically for the paltry amount being proposed, suggesting the state's openness to negotiations for whatever amount it may deem suitable. Fortunately, he also ticked off a "set of policies" governing plea bargains, easing the suspicion that the issue could ultimately boil down to a simple exchange—money for a clean slate.

This, after all, was what Atong Ang's plea bargain agreement has evoked in many an attentive observer: So he will surrender P25 million in commissions from the tobacco excise tax? Big deal. What else did he offer that will be worth the decades lopped off his prison sentence?

The bald truth is that the public is more often in the dark than in the know when it comes to compromise agreements. Who is to say, for example, what exactly has transpired in the state's long-running effort to recover the Marcos wealth?

As always, the question arises: Who benefits when the state strikes a bargain?

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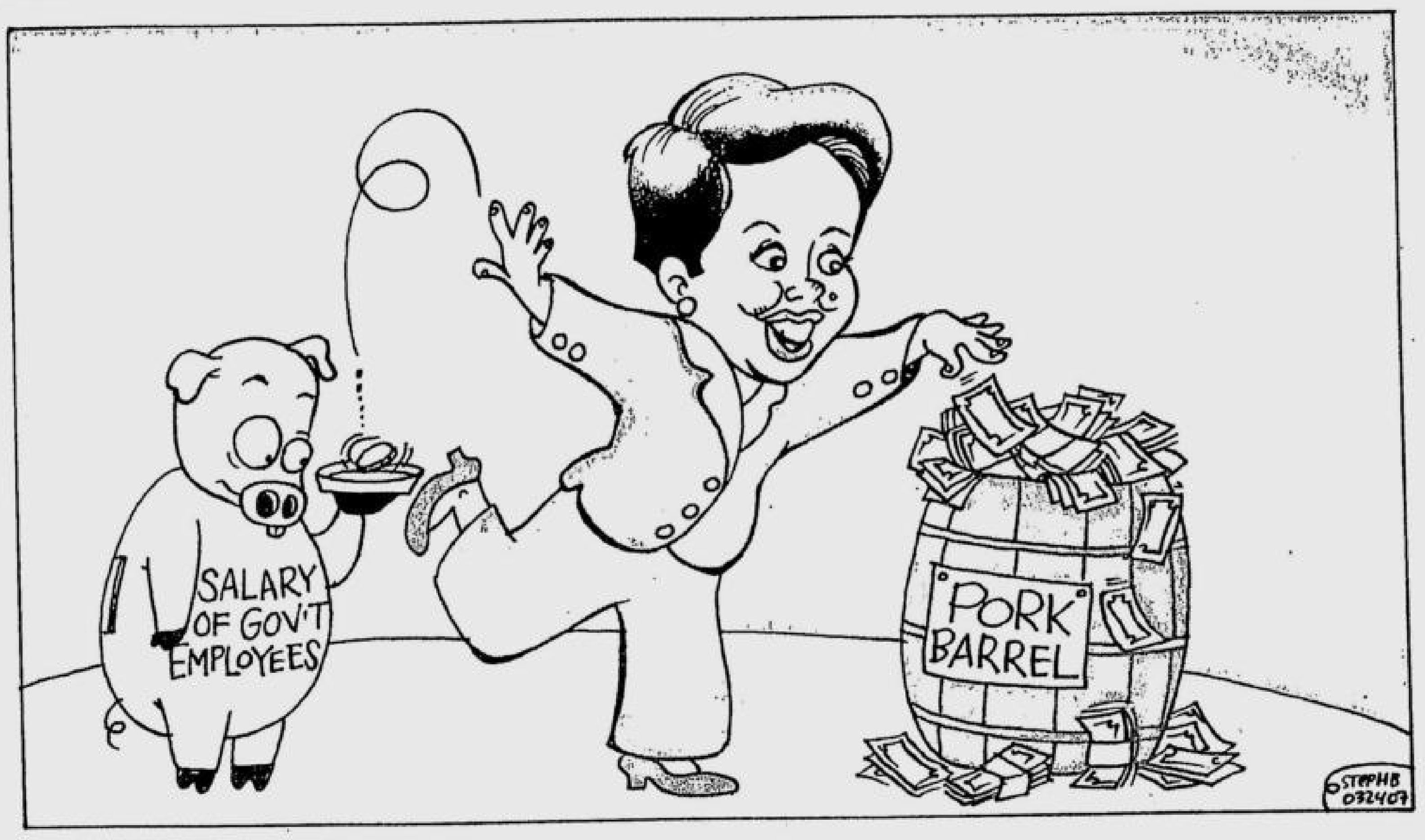


Multi-party confusion

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

BY THE TREATY OF PARIS ON DEC. 10, 1898, Spain ceded the Philippine archipelago to the United States for the measly sum of $20,000,000, representing the cost of our 10 million ancestors then at $2 or P4 per head. President William McKinley thanked God on his knees for America's "manifest destiny" as Wall Street prepared for its future role in the globalization of the world.

The Malolos Constitution, the first democratic document in the whole continent of Asia, died a-borning. The young Gen. Gregorio del Pilar and his men perished at Tirad Pass and Aguinaldo surrendered at Palanan. Apolinario Mabini was deported to Guam. A brown member of the Philippine Commission and the Federal Party shamelessly declared he was an American, as so were "the light and the air and the sun." The heroes of the Revolution and the Philippine-American War were branded as *insurrectos*. Display of the Philippine flag was prohibited.

Two young nationalists, Speaker Sergio Osmeña and, later, Senate President Manuel L. Quezon, led the civil and peaceful struggle for Philippine independence. They both belonged to the dominant Nacionalista Party, but it was split in 1922 into the Unipersonalistas under Osmeña and the Colectivistas under Quezon. Osmeña ran for the Senate to displace Quezon as its head but lost. Manuel A. Roxas, with the support of the two leaders, became the new Speaker.

Meanwhile, the new Democrata Party under Eulogio Rodriguez, Claro M. Recto and Teodoro Sandiko was gaining ground. The astute Quezon and Osmeña saw the need to reconcile into what again became a unified Nacionalista Party. But when Osmeña and Roxas succeeded in getting the US Congress to pass the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Bill that promised independence to the Philippines after a transition period of 10 years, Quezon saw his leadership threatened and called for the rejection of the measure by the Philippine Legislature. In this new division of the nation between the Os-Rox pros and Quezon *antis*, Quezon once again prevailed.

Quezon and Osmeña, reunited once more, were elected as the first President and Vice President of the Philippine Commonwealth under the Nacionalista Party. Aguinaldo and Gregorio Aglipay, the other presidential aspirants, were no match against them. The lone member from the opposition was Alfonso Mendoza from Manila (who successfully defended my 18-year-old father-to-be, Vicente G. Cruz, whose winning "Himagsikan" in a national poetry contest caused his prosecution for sedition).

In the 1940 presidential elections, Quezon was challenged by Juan Sumulong, the head of the Popular Front and former Democrata senator, who was reportedly offered the position of Chief Justice but declined it, choosing instead to run for the opposition and lose; as he knew he would. The Nacionalista Party was the lone and undisputed leader of the nation when the Pacific War placed the Philippines under Japanese Occupation until MacArthur returned in 1944.

Quezon had died in America and when the aging Osmeña took over in Malacañang, Senate President Roxas challenged his former political ally. Roxas defected from the Nacionalista Party and organized what eventually became the Liberal Party. He won in 1946 but died two years later and was succeeded by Vice President Elpidio Quirino, whose leadership in their party was challenged by Senate President Jose Avelino. The two ran in the 1949 presidential election that many believed Jose P. Laurel of the Nacionalista Party had won but lost through massive cheating by the administration.

Laurel got his revenge when he launched the candidacy of Ramon Magsaysay, who dislodged Quirino and restored the primacy of the Nacionalista Party in 1953. When he died in an airplane crash, he was succeeded by Vice President Carlos P. Garcia, who later won the presidency in his own right against Jose Yulo of the Liberal Party in 1957. He was defeated in 1961 by Vice President Diosdado Macapagal, who in turn was ousted in 1965 by Ferdinand Marcos; the latter had bolted their common Liberal Party to join the Nacionalista Party and become its presidential nominee.

As dictator, Marcos practically demolished the Nacionalista and Liberal Parties with his Kilusang Bagong Lipunan. Now all three are splinter parties, along with other minor groups known to many people only by their initials or acronyms without any identifiable platform or credible leadership. Noisy party-list groups and brash entertainers have added to the muddling of Philippine politics. The Constitution of 1987 has replaced the two-party system with a multi-party system that has succeeded only in confusing the electorate and preventing the election of a President of the Philippines with a clear-cut majority.

Let us go back to the two-party system where the administration and the opposition can confront each other eyeball-to-eyeball as in a championship boxing bout where the winner must prove his own strength and not his foe's weakness only. Under the present system, all the contending parties are minor under cards that cannot claim to really lead the nation as the decisive choice of the electorate. That is why our officialdom, under a consistently second-rate President, remains irresolute and inept.

Triumph of law and order

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE PLANNING THAT APPARENTLY WENT into the successful installation of the farmer-beneficiaries in Hacienda Velez-Malaga would have received approval from the Israelis (acknowledged masters of covert operations as in the "Raid on Entebbe" rescue and the "Wrath of God" reprisals). Secrecy and speed were of paramount importance—secrecy to minimize the threat of violence from farm workers (in the last failed attempt at installation, over 2,000 workers from nearby plantations were reportedly bussed to serve as human barricades against the entry of the farmer-beneficiaries, because the installation date was known); and speed to minimize leakages, which is directly related to the length of time a secret has to be kept.

Which is why, according to my sources, no one in the Department of Agrarian Reform bureaucracy was privy to the plans of the high officials (the secretary, undersecretaries and assistant secretaries) who needed to be at the site. Secretary Nasser Pangandaman and the PNP Regional Director Wilfredo Dulay finalized their plans in Iloilo on the eve of the installation. The officials from Manila made their travel arrangements personally, and not through official channels. Only one of them flew directly to Bacolod (on installation day) unannounced. He took a taxi to town instead of asking for official transport. The others took a circuitous route, also on the same day: to Iloilo, and then by FastCraft to Bacolod. Even Pangandaman took that route, accompanied only by the DAR regional director. The arrivals were at different times, so as not to attract attention.

Perhaps another key reason why the element of surprise was achieved is that the PNP provincial director, Senior Supt. Rosendo Franco, seemed to have been bypassed. Handling the ground operations were Senior Supt. Pedro Merced, who heads the Regional Mobile Group, and Senior Supt. Reynaldo Rafal, who was representing Dulay. The chief of police in the locality of the hacienda was also new since the former chief involved in the previous installation attempts had been relieved.

Franco, it will be remembered, was the object of complaints by the beneficiaries because he somehow always managed to be elsewhere when previous attempts at installation were made, even when he promised to provide security. What is more, he seems to have been suspected, rightly or wrongly, of being a major source of information to the landowners about the installation plans. The new chief of police was not from the area.

The military was also involved (11th Infantry Battalion, under Brig. Gen. Gregorio Fajardo), because they remained determinedly neutral and professional, unlike some of their police counterparts.

The upshot of all these preparations was that the government gained "first-mover" advantage. In the previous (failed) installation attempts, by the time they would arrive on the scene, the farm workers controlled by former landowner Roberto Cuenca, reinforced by literally thousands of other workers sent in by neighboring landowners, were already on hand, manning human barricades. This time, because there were no information leaks, the military and police were able to secure the area in pre-dawn operations, which was the only time the opposition got an inkling of what might happen. Government forces, as first-movers, were able to man the barricades that would prevent outsiders from interfering in the installation process. "Only" five busloads of neighboring farmhands could be mobilized at such short notice, and they were not allowed to enter the premises. The threat of violence was vastly reduced; rock-throwing stopped when some of the culprits were arrested (which never happened before).

When Pangandaman arrived on the scene at around 8 a.m., he reportedly was very patient with the Cuenca-controlled workers, but lost it when he realized that they were not negotiating independently but taking their cues from an outside source through expensive very high frequency (VHF) radio-type communications equipment, which allowed the outside source to listen to the negotiations and give them advice and instructions. It may have been at that point that Pangandaman finally accepted that the Velez-Malaga controversy was not farm workers against farm workers, but farm workers against landowners manipulating puppet farm workers.

So when the protesters insisted that the farmer-beneficiaries were not qualified, and unknown in the area, Pangandaman reportedly pointed out to them that these were their relatives, friends, compadres, etc., and that when the list of names were originally posted, none of them came out to question that list. When they complained that due process was not being followed, he reminded them that the process had already taken 11 years. Pangandaman also reportedly told the protesters that they were presumably enjoying the benefits of agrarian reform through their "cooperative," so why did they not allow the other farmers who did not want to join the cooperative to also enjoy the benefits of land reform after such a long delay?

At the end of the day (literally), the forces of law and order triumphed. The farmer-beneficiaries were installed. The real protesters were unmasked. And the hunger strikers can stop their fasting. Although many more things have to be put in place for the farmer-beneficiaries to fully realize their dream, they now have reason to be hopeful.

It's about time. Zone of Light, here we come.

Fight vs hunger needs citizen intervention

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AN SWS SURVEY PLACED AT A RECORD HIGH of 19 percent of Filipinos, or an estimated 3.4 households, that have experienced hunger at least once in the past three months. Like most statistics, its precision could be disputed, but there is no denying the poverty all around us. A recent photo of a thin Tondo child hunched over a plate of noodles tells the story: the fact is that nowadays many families subsist mainly on one packet of noodles per meal. Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, who has been pushing for greater agricultural productivity and strengthening the food chain, acknowledged this fact when he said that if the families could just add an egg or two into their noodles, it would make a world of difference in nutritive value.

* * *

The grinding poverty in our midst is a problem that should involve all citizens, and oftentimes we don't have to look too far for families caught in its vicious grip. People like our *manicurista*, our *arawan labandera*, the *balut* vendor, the *mag-kakareton bote-dyaryo* man—all of them could use help either in extra cash or food. Civic clubs such as the Rotary and Jaycees could adopt families in the most depressed areas, sustaining them with funds gathered at club meetings. The project of Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales seeking individual donations of P1,200 to help feed one impoverished child for six months is most worthy of support. Some friends of mine always keep bags of *pan de sal* in the car, to give to beggars or sampaguita vendors.

Truly the poverty in our midst calls for direct intervention from those who are more blessed in life.

* * *

In her address before the successful 28th national conference of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) at the Manila Hotel a few days ago, President Macapagal-Arroyo acknowledged this fact of life when she asked the employers to partner with her in pushing such pro-*masa* projects such as more Tindahan Natin that sells cheaper rice and noodles and Botika ng Bayan that sells cheaper medicines. These projects have been complemented by the lowering of electric power and water rates, an added boon to the poor.

At the Ecop conference, GMA abstained from politics and concentrated on reporting to the businessmen good developments on the economic and business front. On the food front, directly affecting the anti-poverty program, she stressed that 70 percent of the vegetables in the country come from the Cordilleras and facilitating their transport is the modernized Halsema Highway that leads to Baguio and the lowlands. But another side of the Cordillera range still has very bad roads, giving rise to the nickname "Cordillera Massage." She vowed to modernize those roads too to move produce from that side. GMA also reported that Dole Philippines is putting up a plantation in La Trinidad, which government will match by setting up refrigeration facilities that will enable farmers there to ride out low prices.

* * *

GMA also announced that the PNCC and the Indonesian firm Citra have finalized a deal to finish phase 2 of the south-bound Skyway, which should be a big boon to the Alabang and Muntinlupa communities. Then too, the Shanghai World Trade Group is investing $200 million in tourist facilities in the BCDA, where a very modern toy factory has also risen to show off the renowned artistry of her *kabalen*. Truly, stressed GMA, "the Philippines is one of the best value-for-money areas for investment in Asia."

* * *

A direct way to attack poverty is to generate jobs and more jobs. Last Sunday, we invited the presidential consultant on entrepreneurship and chief of the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship, Joey Concepcion III, who's also president and CEO of Republic Flour Mills Corp., to talk about PCE's "Go Negosyo" program. Joey stressed that it's the "big brother, small brother approach" that aims to "tilt the balance toward optimism" by encouraging more SMEs to sprout. In various "Negosyo" seminars, successful businessmen have devoted their time to talk to those interested to go into business, and as Joey noted, what the latter seem to look for is just a word of encouragement. The seminars have targeted OFWs and *balikbayans* and young people and lately, looked at business prospects in tourism activities, such as encouraging those with ancestral homes in the provinces to convert them into modest inns to cash in on the tourism boon.

* * *

Concepcion has the right credentials to push entrepreneurship, for under his helm, RFM took on established soft drinks brands when it promoted Pop Cola. "I worked very hard to push it and succeeded in making it No. 1, so it was not 'luck,'" he said. RFM was put up by his maternal grandparents, Salvador and Victoria Araneta, but he also noted that his paternal grandfather, Jose Concepcion Sr., was already 62 when he put up Concepcion Industries.

Entrepreneurship of various kinds is truly in this young man's genes. At the commemoration of the 100th birth anniversary of his maternal grandmother, Dr. Victoria Lopez de Araneta of Jaro, Iloilo, many of the pioneering businesses she helped co-found, as well as civic projects she had set up during an era when women were confined mostly to the home were recalled. The National Historical Institute installed a marker at the White Cross in San Juan, Metro Manila, a haven for underprivileged children for over 70 years that she founded. Victoria and Salvador, son of Don Gregorio Araneta, the secretary of justice and finance during the American regime, founded Feati Institute of Technology and the Araneta Institute of Agriculture (now De La Salle Araneta University). She also co-founded various business ventures such as AIA Feed Mills and Biological Laboratories, and various companies under the Feati Group, in addition to being treasurer and general agent of Lopez Sugar Central and manager of Admiral Apartments.

Swish and Sparta

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN GRADE SCHOOL, A CLASSMATE ASKED ME to take a look at my fingernails. When I bent my knuckles to look at them, she gasped and said, "You have masculine tendencies!" If I were a "real" girl, she suggested, I would have stretched out my fingers and studied my digits daintily.

This was nonsense, of course, but this was also an all-girls' school. From then on, I took care to watch how I sat (ankles discreetly crossed, knees locked), how I waved to friends (elbow close to my chest, taking care not to expose my armpits) and how I laughed (softly, with an enigmatic smile). This lasted for about three months until I got sick and tired of the pretense, and until our biology lessons started and we learned that masculinity and femininity had nothing to do with the way one sat or laughed or gestured.

Indeed, life—and research—has taught us that human beings are not divided into neat categories, like black and white, man or woman, or gay and straight. People are far more complicated and interesting than the boxes we try to confine them in, and even these boxes may vary with every change of circumstance and stage of life.

Behavioral scientists now talk of "sexualities" and "genders," recognizing that one's sexual orientation, behavior, appearance and preferences are much more complicated than the stark categories of the past. True, there are only two sexes: male and female. But between these two polarities lie a whole world of diversity. Gay friends, by the way, bristle at the term "third sex," saying I, as a woman, should be offended, too, because "it means you accept there is such a thing as a 'first' sex, usually male, and a 'second' sex, usually female."

* * *

THIS rumination was really prompted by the news article quoting Philippine National Police spokesman Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao who said that while the PNP does not discriminate against homosexuals, it does frown on members of the force who "sway their hips...or engage in lustful conduct." If they did so, he said, then that would be cause for dismissal.

Expectedly, Danton Remoto, chair of the party-list Ang Ladlad, which seeks to represent the LGBT community in the legislature, reacted to the pronouncement, saying such statements only deepened the stereotype of gay men. "Not all gay men are limp-wristed or sway their hips when they walk," he said.

To which I must add: And so what if they did? So what if the "macho" policeman were to splay his fingers or swish as he walked? Would that make him any less effective as a law enforcer, an investigator or a crime fighter? If it does, then what place do police women have in the law-enforcement profession? And if "feminine" behavior is so undesirable, then what position does the PNP hierarchy hold regarding lesbian or butch police women?

One thing people must understand is that it is impossible to "tell" a person's sexual orientation or preferences from externalities alone, no matter how much fun turning on one's "gaydar" can be. I personally think "don't ask, don't tell" is a sound policy. A person's identity—or self-definition—is private and should be kept confidential, unless and until the person wishes it to be publicly acknowledged.

* * *

SELF-IDENTITY is certainly not a problem for the Spartans in the movie "300." Much has been said about the preponderance of six-pack abs and the overdose of testosterone in the film. But even after reading a slew of reviews about "300"—most of it positive, gushing even—I wasn't prepared for such an over-the-top celebration of machismo.

The heroic "last stand" of a puny force of Spartans, under the leadership of King Leonidas, in Thermopylae, against the thousands-strong forces of the Persian Empire led by no less than "God-King" Xerxes, is certainly deserving of epic, over-the-top treatment. And yet the filmmakers didn't have to make death and cruelty, war and bloodletting so attractive, or seem so noble. Who needs army recruitment ads when you have movies like "300" make whacking your enemy, killing the wounded and throwing yourself at insurmountable forces seem like such heroic endeavors?

Is it any accident, too, that the enemies in "300" are the ancestors of today's Iranians? I wouldn't put it past the Bush White House, with its cast of expert manipulators of public opinion, to have conspired with comic book writer Frank Miller and director Zach Snyder to make this movie to "soften" the ground of American public opinion to justify an invasion of Iran.

* * *

HAVING said that, and despite my misgivings, I must say that I still enjoyed "300," at least on a visceral level. The grand emotions and grandiose staging take the cringe factor out of the pompous script. And the loud rock-techno score drives the action forward and gives the ancient story a contemporary sheen.

The filming techniques, setting much of the characters and action in monochromatic sepia tones, save for the scarlet robes and plentiful splashes of blood, also "soften" the violence and gore. It feels all right to be cheering for the Spartans driven by blood lust because we don't really "see" what they're doing, be it beheading an enemy or using corpses to build a wall.

Perhaps this is war for the "Counterstrike" and "Ragnarok" generation, for whom fighting is devoid of physical violence and pain, immune from suffering, sorrow and empathy, and focused only on scoring points for "kills," and earning online glory.

One young reviewer said that on leaving the theater after watching "300," he had "irrational urges to start a fight and stab people with my fingers." I can only thank fate that I wasn't near him that day, and that I or my family didn't encounter similarly pumped moviegoers, or who knows where we would all be today.

Global warming's dirty secret

WORLD VIEW

Bjorn Lomborg

EARLY THIS MONTH, THE EUROPEAN UNION declared that it had practically saved the planet. With European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso claiming that Europe will lead the way on climate change, the EU has promised to cut CO2 emissions by 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. Of course, with the EU already having promised an 8-percent cut by next year in the Kyoto Protocol, this new target seems slightly less ambitious. Moreover, in continuing the fundamental problems besetting the crippled Kyoto Protocol, the EU has essentially gone and made a worse deal.

Man-made climate change is, of course, real, and constitutes a serious problem. Yet the current cut-emissions-now-before-it-is-too-late mindset neglects the fact that the world has no sensible short-term solutions.

This seems to be why we focus on feel-good approaches like the Kyoto Protocol, whose fundamental problem has always been that it is simultaneously impossibly ambitious, environmentally inconsequential and inordinately expensive. It required such big reductions that only few countries could live up to it.

Some countries, like the United States and Australia, chose to opt out of its stringent demands; others, like Canada, Japan and a raft of European states, pay lip service to its requirements but will essentially miss its targets. Yet, even if everyone had participated and continued to stick to Kyoto's ever more stringent commitments, it would have had virtually no environmental effect. The treaty's effect on temperature would be immeasurable by mid-century and only postpone warming by five years in 2100. Nonetheless, the cost would have been anything but trivial: an estimated $180 billion per year.

With its high-pitched rhetoric, you would be forgiven for believing that the EU has now single-handedly taken the major step toward solving the problem. Barroso calls the agreement "historic," Tony Blair extols its "groundbreaking, bold, ambitious targets," and German Chancellor Angela Merkel even ventured that the promises "can avoid what could well be a human calamity."

> We need to find a viable, long-term strategy that is smart, equitable and doesn't require inordinate sacrifice for trivial benefits

But nobody sees fit to reveal the agreement's dirty little secret: it will do next to no good, and again at very high cost. According to one well-established and peer-reviewed model, the effect of the EU cutting emissions by 20 percent will postpone warming in 2100 by just two years, yet the cost will be about $90 billion annually. It will be costly, because Europe is a costly place to cut CO2, and it will be inconsequential, because the EU will account for only about 6 percent of all emissions in the 21st century. So the new treaty will be an even less efficient use of our resources than the old Kyoto Protocol.

It is important to learn from the past. We have often been promised dramatic cuts in CO2 emissions far into the future, only to see the promises vanish when we got there. In Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the West promised to stabilize emissions, but overshot by 12 percent. In Kyoto, we were promised a 7-percent reduction in world emissions, but will probably achieve only 0.4 percent. Of course, those promises were made by politicians who in all likelihood will no longer be in office when the time comes to fulfill them.

We will not be able to solve global warming over the next decades, but only the next half or full century. We need to find a viable, long-term strategy that is smart, equitable and doesn't require inordinate sacrifice for trivial benefits. Fortunately, there is such a strategy: research and development. Investing in R&D of non-carbon-emitting energy technologies would leave future generations able to make serious and yet economically feasible and advantageous cuts. A new global warming treaty should mandate spending 0.05 percent of GDP on R&D in the future. It would be much cheaper, yet do much more good in the long run.

The EU's new global warming agreement may help win elections for leaders faced with voters scared by the prospect of climate change. But it will do virtually no good, at high cost, and—as with many other lofty promises from the EU—it will carry a high probability of failure. Let us hope that the rest of the world will keep its cool and propose a better, cheaper and more effective solution for the future. *Project Syndicate*

Bjorn Lomborg is the organizer of Copenhagen Consensus, adjunct professor at Copenhagen Business School and editor of the new book "How to Spend $50 billion to Make the World a Better Place."

Family pictures

YOUNG BLOOD

Phillip Aristotle R. Hermida

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

AS I BEGAN DUSTING THE PICTURE FRAMES IN OUR NEW house, something caught my attention. We have so many family pictures that some of them cannot be put on display for lack of space. These pictures are more than just colored photographs taken through the years and framed by our favorite photo studio. They have stories trapped inside the glass and wood-bound frames. They are motionless testaments of time, a collection of blissful memories and still images of our 25 years as a family. This experience came at a time when my parents were about to celebrate their silver wedding anniversary.

I remember quite vividly that fateful day of April 24, 13 years ago, when they celebrated their anniversary. It was my first time to wear a barong Tagalog, which to me then was a translucent piece of clothing that failed to hide the frail body of an insecure 10-year-old. Such moments will forever be remembered as that picture hangs peacefully near my parents' room.

And how can I forget the first-ever family picture taking in 1989? That photo is by far the biggest and most visible around the house, thanks to its strategic location in the living room. I love this particular picture not only for its significance. If anyone gets a chance to look at it carefully, it captures the innocence of the four children as well as the happiness mixed with anxiety etched in our parents' faces. I can only imagine now how they felt during that time, raising four children while being still so young themselves (yes, my parents married young) and facing the uncertainty of the future. But I would like to think that we all turned out to be what they hoped us to be: a law graduate, a would-be doctor, a psychology degree holder working for a reputable company and a fresh political science graduate who is now in the academe and will soon follow in the footsteps of our future lawyer-brother. All these are captured in the photos that speak well of the times.

To date, we have nine family pictures so that every other year (this practice started only in 1989), an updated version replaces the old, or as we say, the outdated one. The term is so appropriate because by the time the latest family picture is transferred to another viewing area to accommodate the more recent one, our physical appearances have changed dramatically. For example, our *bunso* sports a feminine, ear-length hairstyle and puckered lips to complete the look in our 1989 family picture. Two years later, her hair has grown longer and she looks better with her bangs to match her exclusive-school-for-girls demeanor. Kuya is noticeably a lot taller, my sister next to me has gained some extra holiday weight and I, well, I leave that to the viewer's judgment. But more significantly, my parents look happier. Their faces were glowing, as if to show how excited they are to see us grow so fast. Dad looks younger and slimmer, his rimless eyeglasses masking the worries he may have while raising four kids at the same time. Mom looks so elegant in her gown adorned with lace and accentuated by a blazer. Her smile is a portrait of delight, of joy and contentment and these bode well for our family.

That image was like a prediction, a foreshadowing of our life together, one that is well lived and nurtured patiently and lovingly in our home.

Every family has a practice that is uniquely theirs. I know of families who love to travel, make beautiful music together or spend hours in the kitchen honing their culinary skills. In our case, we invest in these pictures. No matter how simple it may sound, it is one thing I will not trade for anything. I even thought of taking photography lessons so I could preserve that family tradition with me handling the lens. I tried documenting birthday and graduation parties, *noche buenas* and family reunions and I was really pleased to see these pictures finding a place in photo albums and picture frames.

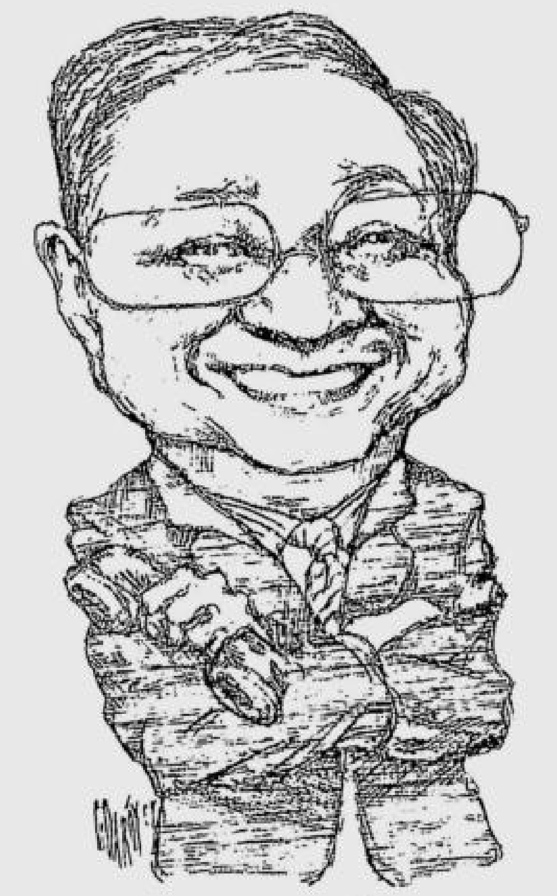
And it does not stop there. As I write this, a new, updated picture is in the process of being developed and framed. It is extra special because unlike in the past when we all trooped to the studio, the picture was taken in the convenience of our own home. Even the photographer was in awe upon seeing our family pictures on the walls, the same pictures he took years ago but now more beautiful, colorful and certainly more meaningful than when he first delivered them to us wrapped in brown paper.

They say a picture paints a thousand words. But for our family, words fail to describe the essence of our collective experience. I am forever in debt to the person who invented photography for filling the void left by words. I am also grateful for the gift of color and light, two elements that bring pictures to life. And I am thankful to the Lord for giving us our smiles that beam not only our happiness but also the love that overflows from our hearts.

I will continue this practice when I start a family of my own. I wish that my siblings will do the same. For a snapshot spells eternity. A picture is forever.

Phillip Aristotle R. Hermida, 23, is a third year medical student at the UP College of Medicine.

IN THE NEWS



Manny Pangilinan

'Most corrupt' tag plus point

AS WE ALL SADLY KNOW, MANY OF the people we've elected into public office have turned into greedy and shameless sleazebags. It seems that our country's ranking last year as the second most corrupt country in Asia, as well as our other degrading international distinctions in the past many years, did not get through to their thick skin. Why care about the country's reputation and welfare when one's position enables him or her to pocket the Filipino people's money for his or her own personal enjoyment?

As a loyal Filipino, I want nothing more than for this country to redeem itself. So imagine the level of anger, dismay, humiliation, self-pity and sorrow I felt upon reading the INQUIRER's March 14 headline "RP 'most corrupt' in Asia." But I also felt hopeful, for this might just be that strong slap in the face needed to shame our thick-faced public officials into "positive" action.

It is time for a grand celebration, everyone! This is what we have all been waiting for. Expect things to get better. The Philippines is in the pit of wretchedness, there is nowhere else to go but up.

—**CLAUDE LUCAS C. DESPABILADERAS,**
claudelucas2003@yahoo.com

Doubter to win all prizes if he hacks lotto computer

THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO THE COMMENTS of Rene Torres on lotto gaming. (INQUIRER, 3/15/07)

Without being too technical, let me just correct some erroneous statements he made. He said that "some 40 percent of the betting proceeds are plowed into the prizes." Not true. Fifty-five percent goes to the prize fund, 30 percent to the charity fund and only 15 percent to the operating expenses.

When the betting stops at 8 p.m. or 8:30 p.m. in other outlets—an hour or half an hour before the 9 p.m. televised draw—Torres can bet his neck that the system is completely shut off and no one can enter the main computer until the next day.

Torres questioned why all the bets placed nationwide have to be downloaded. It's because the representative of the Commission on Audit present in every draw requires us to do so for transparency and accountability.

"The jackpot is the heart of the draw, why should the other combinations be given the same priority as the winning jackpot combination? And how can there be thousands and thousands of other winning combinations?" Torres asked.

Indeed, aside from the jackpot winner/s, there are thousands and thousands of winners of consolation prizes. Doesn't Torres know that the winnings in minor prizes total tens of millions of pesos every day?

"But what if the intervention, the cheating, is done by insiders printing out a fresh ticket containing the winning combinations?" Torres asked some more.

How can that possibly be done, when the entire system is already shut off and disabled by 8:30 p.m. with COA representatives, together with the PCSO personnel from various departments, present in the computer room? It seems that not even Bill Gates can allay Torres' fears.

All things considered, why doesn't Torres come to the PCSO and try to hack our computers? He is most welcome to try; and should he succeed, the PCSO promises to give him all the prizes.

I pray that Torres is not a sympathizer of other gaming ventures—legal or illegal—that have all tried to discredit the lotto since day one because of the lotto's huge success here and all over the world.

Instead of expressing his doubts through the INQUIRER, Torres can come to the PCSO and our technical people will address all his doubts, though the questions in his mind come 12 years late; lotto in the country started in February 1995. Where had he been all these years?

—**MANUEL L. MORATÓ,**
director, Philippine Charity
Sweepstakes Office, Quezon City

OSG played key role in recovery of ill-gotten wealth

THIS IS A RESPONSE TO THE THREE-PART special report "P61-B loot recovered; no one jailed." (INQUIRER, 2/22-24/07) The series totally failed to look into the significant role played by the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), particularly during the time of Solicitor General Simeon V. Marcelo, in the recovery of ill-gotten wealth from the Marcoses and their cronies. Because of the efforts of the OSG during Marcelo's time, the PCGG, unlike in the past, was able to score major legal victories and to recover, to date, ill-gotten wealth amounting to P60 billion. (Prior to February 2001, the PCGG—in its 15 years of existence since 1986—was able to recover only P25 billion.)

In February 2001, when Marcelo assumed office as solicitor general, most of the PCGG cases, especially the major cases (having languished for about 14 years in the Sandiganbayan), were already in the brink of being dismissed by the Sandiganbayan due to the failure of the government to present evidence against the Marcoses and their cronies.

The first major step taken by Marcelo was to focus on the major cases. Among these were the coconut levy cases against Eduardo Cojuangco and his co-defendants, the PLDT case against Antonio Cojuangco and his family; the Swiss deposit case against Imelda Marcos, her daughters and son; the so-called Benedicto-Africa-Nieto cases relating to the Philcomsat and other related companies; and the cases involving Fortune Tobacco and related companies against Lucio Tan. Considering his office's lack of manpower, Marcelo personally supervised the prosecution of these major cases.

Further, considering that the Marcoses and their cronies were being represented, as mentioned in the article, by the best legal minds in the country that money could buy, Marcelo decided to assign the major cases to the most experienced and competent of OSG's lawyers.

The OSG's first major victory was achieved in the coconut levy cases. In March 2001, he questioned before the Supreme Court the writ of preliminary injunction issued by then Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena against the PCGG and the coconut farmers. In December 2001, the Supreme Court nullified the Sandiganbayan's writ of preliminary injunction and ruled that the coconut levy funds were prima facie public funds.

Also, during his term as solicitor general, Marcelo successfully handled the appeal on the recovery of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth worth $680 million that was deposited in a Swiss account.

And there was the case on PLDT shares. After the Sandiganbayan rendered a decision which ruled against the PCGG, Marcelo filed a Petition for Review with the Supreme Court in June 2002. On Jan. 20, 2006, the Court granted the petition. Based on news reports, the shares in question have recently been sold by the government in the amount of P25.2 billion.

—**JOHN JL BALISNOMO,**
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Philippine bishops need Pope's 'blessing'

IN HIS COLUMN OF MARCH 19, 2007, FR. Joaquin Bernas, S.J. criticized a group of citizens for writing to the Holy Father and asking Him to "educate the members of the hierarchy about their duty not to get mixed up in political matters." Father Bernas called the effort "forum shopping," prompted by a misunderstanding of an encyclical and other papal teachings.

The citizens based their argument on the principle of separation of Church and State, Pope Benedict XVI's "Deus et Caritas," and a document called "The Social Doctrine of the Church." Father Bernas considered the constitutional command on separation irrelevant because, as he claimed, the command is addressed to the State and not to the Church. He also gave his own interpretations of the "Deus et Caritas" and the "Social Doctrine."

Lest the public gets lost after reading Father Bernas' dissertation, the issue is this: Has the Church the right to actively take sides in the country's partisan issues? The citizens' group says the Church has no such right. Father Bernas says it has.

There is no question that the Church has the right, nay the obligation, to "promote justice through efforts to bring openness of mind and will" or "purify reason and reawaken moral forces," to paraphrase the encyclicals. But that is not what the Church has been doing. Instead of using reason and moral tenets to enlighten issues or clarify positions for the guidance of all concerned, it has engaged in active physical advocacy and action to sway one part of the population against the other. How else can one interpret its support of OneVoice and other anti-GMA groups?

This reader continues to harbor the hope that the Holy Father blesses the members of the Philippine Church hierarchy with the understanding that they should "not get mixed up in political matters." They need it.

—**GONZALO M. JURADO, Ph.D.,**
professor of economics,
Kalayaan College,
Riverbanks Center, Marikina City

Siazon's defense of Japan's Abe treasonous

RAUL PANGALANGAN, FORMER DEAN OF the UP College of Law, in his March 2 column, launched a scathing attack on Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's refusal to apologize for the misdeeds Japanese soldiers committed during World War II—especially the establishment of "sex" or "comfort" stations, like those put up by the Japanese Army in China, Korea and the Philippines.

We join the dean in his expression of rage. The maneuverings of dishonest Abe to evade legal and moral responsibilities are condemnable. Japanese officials have even found it correct to hide the truth by not mentioning this in Japanese textbooks. Some Japanese individuals though have urged their government not only to apologize but also to make amends through adequate and appropriate compensation.

We see Prime Minister Abe protecting—though in a very atrocious and distasteful manner—Japan's national interest. What we do not understand, and certainly denounce, is the treasonous defense by the Honorable Domingo L. Siazon, the Philippine ambassador to Tokyo under former President Fidel Ramos and now under President Macapagal-Arroyo, in shamelessly justifying Tokyo's official line that Japan does not owe the Philippines and the Filipino "comfort women"—the Nana Rosas and Maximas who are still around—any apology, much less compensation.

Siazon's betrayal, much more than Abe's amnesia, is the unkindest cut of all.

—**NELSON D. LAVIÑA,**
ambassador (ret.),
nlavina2@fastmail.fm

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Cops on alert for suicide bomb attacks

PARANG, SHARIFF KABUNSUAN—POLICE AUthorities in Central Mindanao and in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) are on high alert following intelligence reports about a supposed group of terrorists planning to stage suicide bomb attacks.

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, ARMM police chief, told reporters on Thursday that the piece of information was relayed to them by the Central Mindanao police.

"These are still raw (pieces of) information that need to be confirmed. But true or not, we are on alert," Goltiao said.

He said based on the report, terrorists identified with the Abu Sayyaf and the Jemaah Islamiyah would use seven cars for the mission, which would be carried out in North Cotabato, South Cotabato and this city.

Goltiao said the license plates of the cars to be used for the supposed bomb attacks have already been identified.

"I'd rather not divulge the plate numbers yet," Goltiao said, adding that they were still trying to track down these cars.

Chief Supt. Felizardo Serapio, Central Mindanao police director, said he already asked for the military's help against the reported terror plot in the region.

"The information could be the handiwork of pranksters, but it's better to be always prepared than to take the threat lightly," Serapio said.

Terrorists identified with the Abu Sayyaf and the JI have been targeting Central Mindanao areas in the past.

These include the October and the January bomb attacks—which killed over a dozen people—in Makilala and Kidapawan City in North Cotabato; in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat, and in this city.

Maj. Randolph Cabangbang, spokesperson of the military's Eastern Mindanao Command, told the INQUIRER that authorities have also tightened security during the conduct of the Palarong Pambansa in South Cotabato.

More than 7,000 athletes and games officials were expected to participate in the national games, which would be held from April 22 to 28.

"We know that terrorists carry attacks in places where there are many people... to have a maximum impact," Cabangbang said.

US military forces are currently conducting Balikatan exercises with Philippine troops. *Charlie C. Señase, Jeoffrey Maitem and Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

JANI ARNAIZ/INQUIRER VISAYAS

RELATIVES and friends of residents of Guinsaugon village who died when a landslide buried their communities scatter flowers for their dead.

Contractor abandons Guinsaugon project; Gordon seeks charges

By Jani Arnaiz
Inquirer Visayas

CATMON, ST. BERNARD, SOUTHern Leyte—Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) chair Sen. Richard Gordon has ordered the filing of a case against the contractor who abandoned the P35 million housing project here.

"I want the contractor charged and if he's gone abroad we'll extradite him. I'm a lawyer, I know what I'm saying," Gordon told Southern Leyte Red Cross administrator Romeo Orilla, who informed the senator that the contractor may have left the country.

Paid contractor

Orilla said the LB Builders, reported based in Tacloban, had collected 15 percent of the contract amount as mobilization fund.

But the contractor only accomplished 12 percent of about 190 houses to be built for evacuees from Hinabian, Magatas, and Kauswagan villages, he said.

Orilla said the contractor abandoned the project when it failed to pay its suppliers after Red Cross rejected the contractor's efforts to collect payment for 50 percent of the project.

"How could we pay 50 percent when they could only finish 12 percent," Orilla said. The project was stopped last November.

Gordon issued the directive to the Red Cross staff when he saw the abandoned site during an ocular inspection with PNRC secretary general Alma Corazon de Leon, Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias and some Red Cross staffers.

Gordon also instructed his staff to speed up the re-bidding process and exert all efforts to finish the project, which was funded by the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC).

Low cost

Earlier, Gordon denied that the bidding for the Catmon project may have been rigged.

"To say that it was rigged was unfair, I had to be frank with you. We value integrity here," Gordon said.

He said Manila-based contractors rejected the project because it was low-cost housing.

In 2003, a Red Cross staffer figured in an anomalous transaction for a housing project on Panaon Island, which enabled a supplier to collect payments without delivering materials. The project was started after a landslide killed more than 150 people on Panaon.

The controversy resulted in the termination of Red Cross officials in the province and from Metro Manila.

Gordon also disclosed that the PNRC received about P200 million in donations for Guinsaugon victims.

Gordon said while there were only about 200 families who survived the tragedy of Guinsaugon, the Red Cross saw it fit to build houses for residents of neighboring barangays who also had to be moved out of their communities for fear the landslide that obliterated Guinsaugon would hit them, too.

"It means moving a lot of people out of harm's way. In other countries, they build tents. Here, we build houses," he added.

Palace antigraft body to probe Tesda scam

By David Israel Sinay
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE PRESIDENTIAL Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) found sufficient basis to proceed with an administrative investigation of Augusto Syjuco, Technical Education Skills Development Authority (Tesda) director general, and five others over alleged irregularities in the P9.2-million contract for the printing of a book authored by Syjuco himself.

The complaint included Santiago Yabut Jr., deputy director general for field operations, and Tesda bids and awards committee (BAC) members Marjorie Docdocil, Ma. Lourdes Villanueva, Clifford Paragua and Brenda Furugganan.

In an order on March 8, PAGC Chair Constancia de Guzman required the six officials to answer the accusations in 10 days.

De Guzman's directive came after lawyer Mylen Gonzales, PAGC director for investigation, filed a complaint against the six for allowing the transaction to proceed without following the conditions set for the bidding process.

On July 17, 2006, Yabut, head of the BAC, and the other members recommended the award of the contract to print the book to Grand C Graphics Inc.

Gonzales said the BAC awarded the contract through limited source bidding, which is allowed only if certain types of goods or services could be obtained from a limited number of sources.

Gonzales said the contract proceeded despite the failure of the winning bidder to post a performance security bond in violation of Section 39 of Republic Act No. 9184, which requires winning bidders to post performance security bonds.

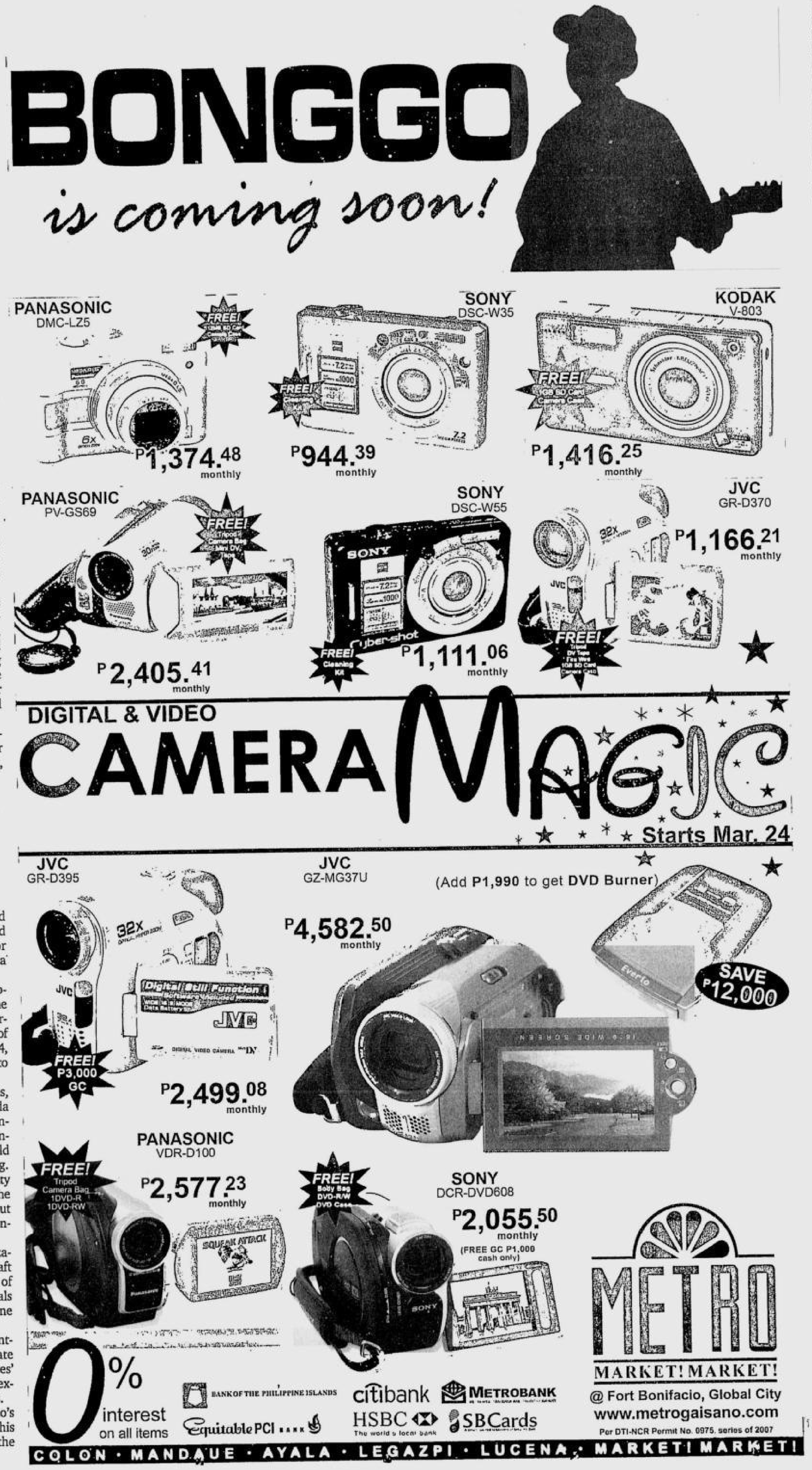
In spite of the irregularities, Gonzales said Syjuco, as Tesda head, approved the BAC recommendation and signed the contract of services although he could have declared a failure of bidding.

Syjuco also abused his authority when he signed and approved the payment of the contract without the required signature of the agency's accountant, Gonzales said.

The six Tesda officials, Gonzales said, violated the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, Code of Ethics for Government Officials and Employees and the Philippine Administrative Code of 1987.

The controversy over the printing contract deal broke out late last year after Tesda employees' union president Annie Geron exposed the alleged irregularities.

In a phone interview, Syjuco's legal counsel Alex Espino said his client has already answered the accusations.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Prisoners earn inside Cebu jail

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Cebu City

CONTRARY TO THE GENERAL PERCEPTION THAT life in a detention facility is miserable, inmates at the Cebu provincial jail want to prove this generalization wrong.

Instead of languishing in jail, most of the 1,600 inmates of the province-run Cebu Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center (CPDRC) seem to be enjoying their imprisonment instead.

CPDRC, a P50-million jail facility equipped with sophisticated security and alarm system such as magnetic scanner and surveillance cameras, is located in the hilly portion of Barangay Kalunasan, Cebu City.

The rehabilitation programs of the state-of-the-art detention facility instill tougher discipline and self-reliance among its inmates. Proof of this is the prisoners' impressive presentation of their military march and parade combined with dance play that have delighted government officials and other visitors every time the CPDRC holds a program.

But the highlight of the jail's rehabilitation programs is its lucrative livelihood projects that employ close to half of the population of the inmates.

Workplace

To Melchor Miano, 27, who is charged with double murder, life in the provincial jail starts as early as 6 a.m. to do his exercise.

He then proceeds to his work area, joining seven others cutting and sewing about 1,600 orange-colored CPDRC uniforms.

Aside from the uniforms, Miano and the rest of the sewers also saw linens for the 16 district hospitals of Cebu.

"I have been jailed for two years now. When the jail officials were looking for cutters and sewers, I did not hesitate from volunteering because I wanted to earn and do something worthwhile while I'm here. It helps me a lot because I am earning," he said.

Lex Delima, a drug suspect who has been in jail for three years, said they earned P6,000 each last year for the 920 linens they had sewn for the district hospitals.

Delima, the master cutter of the group, said he has helped his ailing mother by contributing whatever income he earned from the jail's livelihood program.

"My mama Corazon is already 59 and sickly. I gave her whatever I have and I don't ask her help to pay for my lawyer every time I have hearings. I'm so blessed and happy because I don't have to rely from my family anymore and I could even help them," Delima said.

Another attractive livelihood project of CPDRC is the production of native bags, hundreds of which had been displayed in local and international exhibits.

More than 100 prisoners have been tapped to make native bags, with the materials supplied by a Cebu-based export company, according to Byron Garcia, Capitol's security consultant.

Garcia said for the past year since the project was started, the bags had been exported to the United States and Europe.

Exhibits

In fact, more than 300 native bags have been displayed in the exhibition hall of the Cebu International Convention Center during the 12th Association of South East Asian Nations summit in Cebu last January, he said.

Garcia said the prisoners also earned P35,000 after their native bags were sold during Cebu's founding day in August of last year.

The capitol consultant said the bag-making project was realized after jail officials discovered that many of the prisoners have skills and creativity to make things out of mats and cartons.

"It started when we discovered during a greyhound operation that many of the confiscated items were hand-made bags and caps made up of mat and cartons. With that we saw their talents and we decided to look for suppliers. Our bargaining point at that time is that they can pay cheap labor while helping our prisoners earn a living," he said.

Garcia said other Cebu-based subcontractors are also trying to tap the services of the prisoners to expand the bag-making project after learning about their skills.

For a native bag, each prisoner earns from P22 to P45 depending on the design and make, according to drug suspect Antonio Gallardo.

Gallardo is among more than 100 prisoners who sew sequence, paste woodcrafts and other native materials such as shells and coconut beads to make exquisite native bags.

During the peak season, the inmates get to rush the completion of 800 pieces of bags in a span of three days, he said.

"At first, we were just observing. The suppliers gave us a model and we just followed. It did not take us long to learn and now we are all enjoying. We sit here at the quadrangle every day, keeping ourselves busy and at the same time we are earning," he said.

Evelyn Cabarse, a former teacher charged with illegal recruitment, said she could now augment her children's financial needs because of what she can save.

Cabarse, who joins 60 other female inmates in bag making, said the livelihood program has also eased the depressing moments inside the jail.

"We no longer have to deal with loneliness. Most of us now are thinking of how we could meet our deadlines. Compared to the male prisoners, we could finish at least six to seven bags a day," she said.

Savings account

Since most of the prisoners are earning, the jail officials have also thought of allowing them to open a savings account through the Court of First Instance-Cooperative (CFI Cooperative), said Marites Mixdon, the jail's administration officer.

Mixdon said the program started last year when the prisoners paid P100 to open a savings account.

A prisoner who availed of the savings account through the CFI has his/her own passbook, she said.

The passbooks are then kept by the CFI cooperative and the prisoners are allowed to withdraw every time they go to the court for hearings, Mixdon added.

"It's like re-introducing the prisoners to the society where they enjoy some amenities like having a savings account. With that, they don't have to rely on outside help because they have their savings already to answer for their needs," she said.

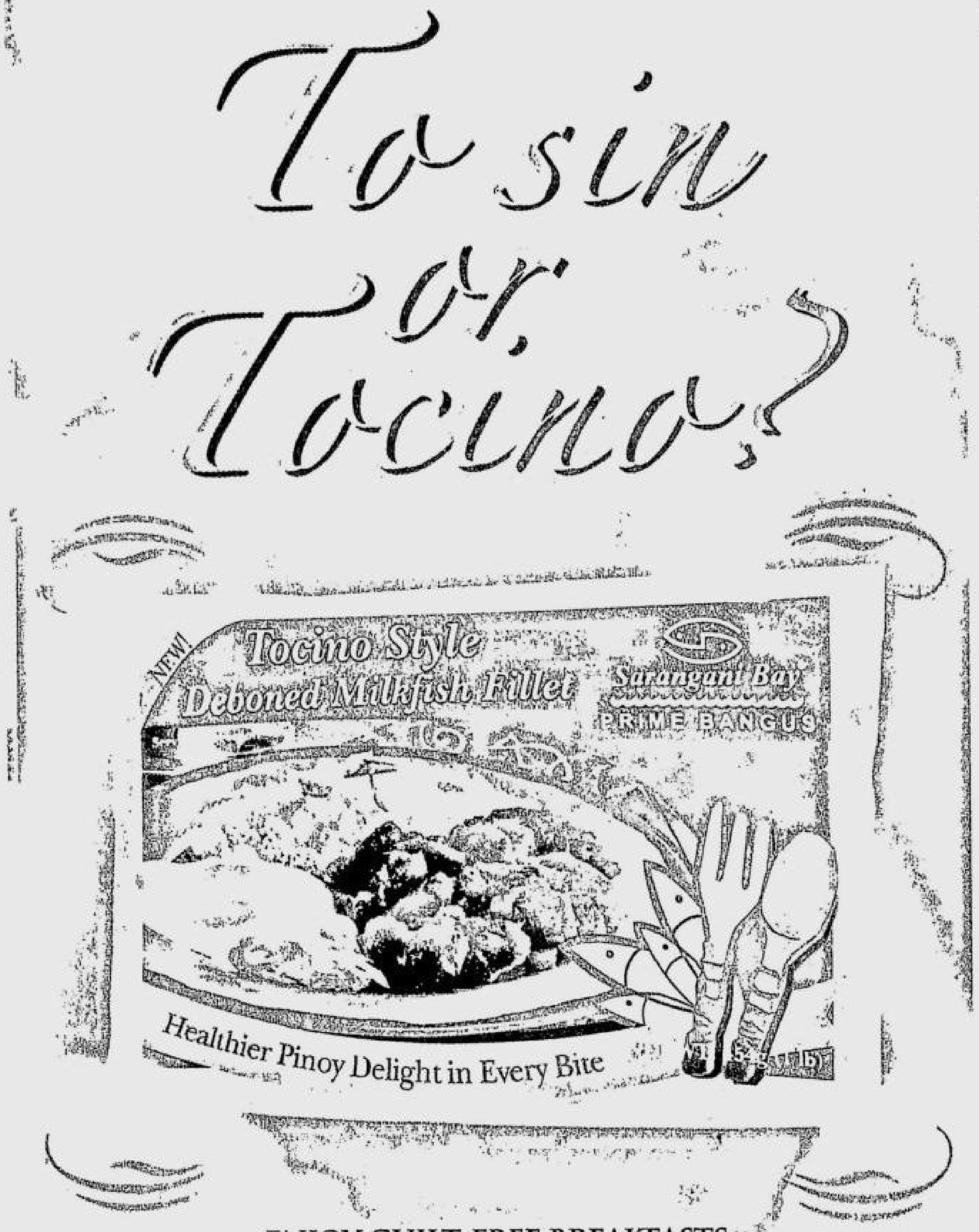
Mixdon said the prisoners could also earn eight percent annually through their savings account.

Jesus Niaga, 45, married with four children and was charged for frustrated murder, said the savings account has helped him a lot with his legal fees.

Niaga, who also earns by making native bags, said he used his savings to pay for his lawyer and contribute something to his children.

"It has indeed helped us a lot. We are happy we are not treated like prisoners but ordinary people who can enjoy certain privileges like ordinary and free citizens," he said.

> 'We no longer have to deal with loneliness. Most of us now are thinking of how we could meet our deadlines'



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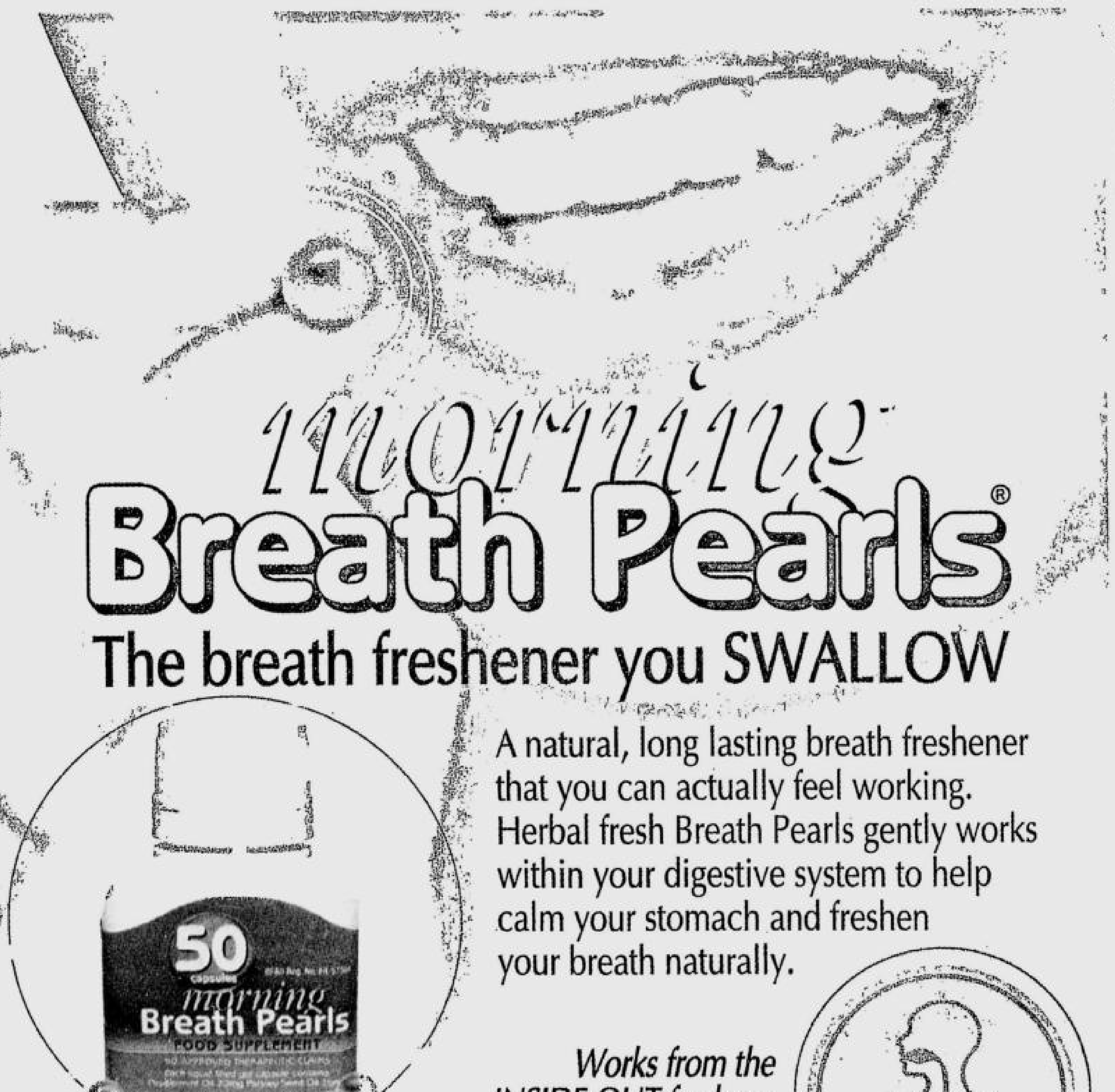

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Solons have no choice but abstain from fat pork

From page A1

ment pay of civil servants who are due to retire this year.

The pork increase which, according to Andaya, was made during the bicameral conference committee that reconciled the House and Senate versions of the 2007 budget bill, appeared to have restored the pork to their original allocations—from P40 million to P70 million for each House representative and from P120 million to P200 million for each senator.

Senate President Manuel Villar, who is running for reelection, yesterday claimed the senators' pork barrel has remained at P120 million each, the same as last year's.

But he could not explain why the total pork allocation in the approved 2007 national budget has increased.

The cuts in the original pork allocations were made two years ago when the President implemented a raft of austerity measures to tame the budget deficit.

Officially called the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), the pork barrel is an allocation in the national budget devoted to the pet projects of legislators based on a prescribed menu ranging from health services to infrastructure projects.

Long a source of fat commissions and kickbacks for the senator or congressman sponsoring the pork barrel-funded project, the pork barrel is used by legislators to curry favor with local government officials and voters to ensure reelection.

Election ban

Andaya said the lawmakers would not be able to avail of their PDAF allocations anyway because of the election ban and the expiration of the term of the 13th Congress.

"As of now there is a moratorium on the processing and releasing of PDAF. There's also an election ban on public works and some other forms of spending so there's a hiatus in this type of expenditure," Andaya said.

Public works projects are banned at the start of the campaign for local elections at the end of March.

"Then the terms of congressmen and senators are about to end. Congress will open in July. So there will be a long pork holiday, if you wish to call it that," Andaya said in a radio interview.

In any case, President Macapagal-Arroyo has the power to "impound or freeze all PDAF releases," Andaya said.

Andaya said he was not a party to the sudden increase in the PDAF, which nearly doubled the original P6.2 billion allocation that Malacañang made in the budget proposal it submitted to Congress.

"I think the agreement to adjust the PDAF was done in the bicam. We were not privy during the budget reconciliation negotiations. When we officially got the bill ratified by both chambers the increase was already there," Andaya said.

The Senate-House bicam was co-chaired by Sen. Franklin Drilon, an outgoing opposition senator, and Albay Rep. Jose Ma. Salceda who is now the President's chief of staff.

Andaya earlier said the pork increase might adversely affect some 7,000 to 8,000 government retirees.

P3.6-B from Retirement Fund

"The allocation for retirement and terminal benefits [for government workers] was shaved by P3.6 billion, from P18.7 billion to P15.1 billion. Our preliminary calculation showed it would adversely affect claims of about 7,000 retirees," Andaya said.

But Andaya yesterday assured retirees that they had nothing to worry about, they would be given first crack at the budget.

Villar said many senators do not use their pork barrel allocation, either because they do not want to or because their project proposals are disapproved by Malacañang.

He said it was the President who dictates how much each senator will get in terms of projects approved.

Not all senators get to "identify projects" under the PDAF, Villar said in a phone interview.

"The problem is, many don't get any or their projects are very much delayed because Malacañang sits on the release of funds. So, you can't really say, one senator may get [a pork barrel project], another senator will not," he said in Filipino.

Villar has allied himself with the opposition in his reelection bid even though he won his first Senate term in 2001 under the administration ticket.

With a report from Dona Pazzibugan

VILLAR: Senators' pork is the same.

ANDAYA: Long pork holiday

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, March 24, 2007
4th Week of Lent

1st Reading:	Jer 11:18-20
Gospel:	John 7:40-53

Many who had been listening to these words began to say, "This is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some wondered, "Would the Christ come from Galilee? Doesn't Scripture say that the Christ is a descendant of David and from Bethlehem, the city of David?" The crowd was divided over him. Some wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The officers of the Temple went back to the chief priests who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him?" The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man." The Pharisees then said, "So you, too, have been led astray! Have any of the rulers or any of the Pharisees believed in him? Only these cursed people, who have no knowledge of the Law!"

Yet one of them, Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier, spoke out, "Does our law condemn people without first hearing them and knowing the facts?" They replied, "Do you, too, come from Galilee? Look it up and see for yourself that no prophet is to come from Galilee."

And they all went home.

Commentary

Jeremiah knew what they were plotting. Yet he describes himself as a trusting lamb led to the slaughter. They are out to destroy him, cut him off from the land of the living, but Jeremiah knows the Lord, the just Judge, the searcher of mind and heart will do vengeance. Do we know the Lord as Judge and searcher of mind and heart? Do we stand with the prophets and with Jesus? Or do we stand with those who judge, who reject, who punish and use religion against others? Do we refuse to look at ourselves and our evil and violence as insulting to God?

The people are all sharply divided over him, because of interpretations of theology and tradition. And Jesus speaks like no one has spoken before—yet so few believe in him: from among the people, the Pharisees, the guards, the Sanhedrin. They don't want to listen, to be judged, to be called to account, to repent. Nicodemus makes a feeble attempt alone to speak up for Jesus, but they put him down quickly. We must have the Word of the Lord, a community to practice standing up for Jesus, and aligning ourselves with him. Do we?

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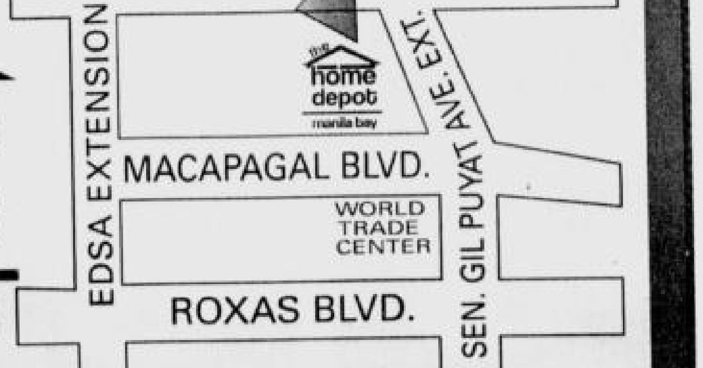

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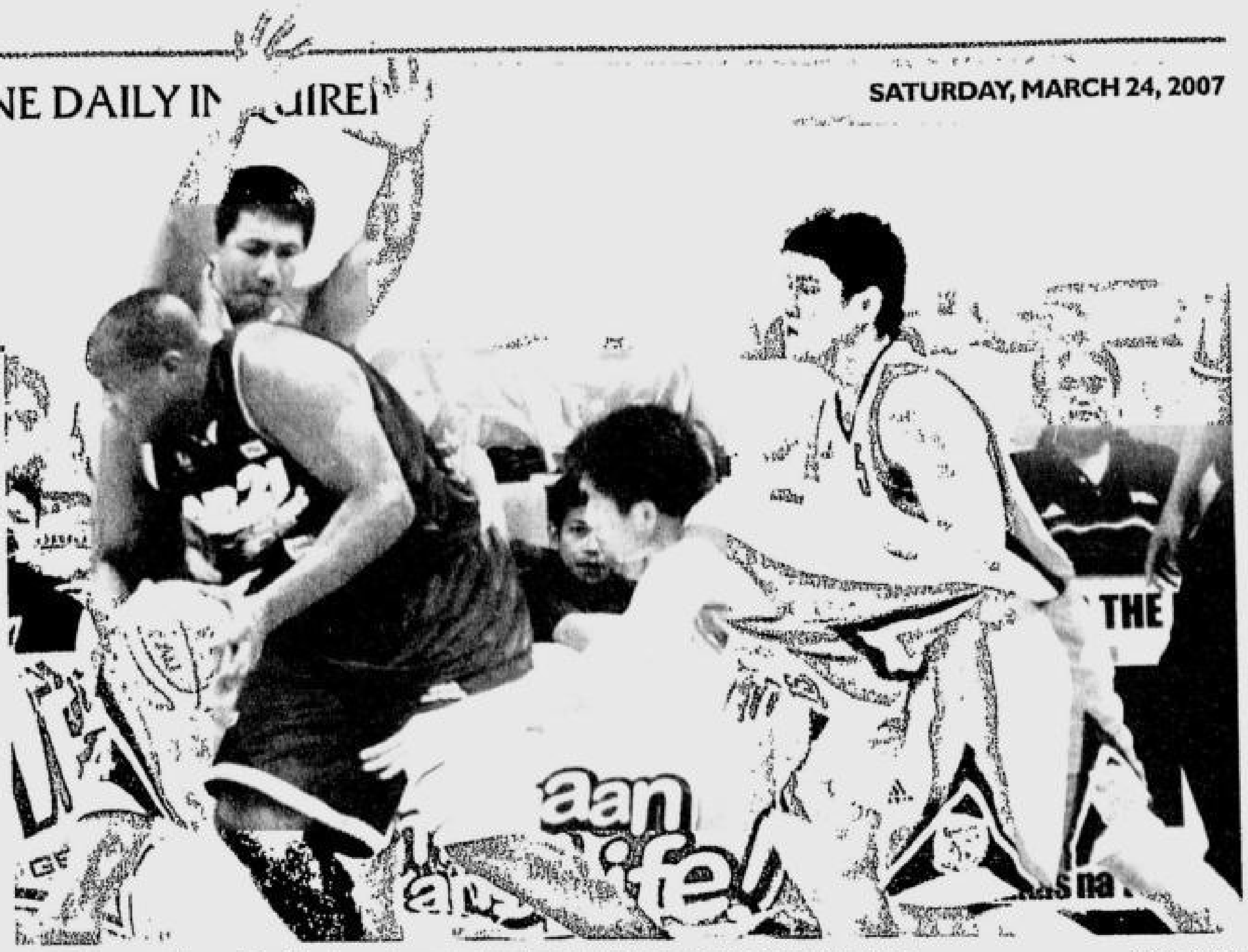
Late SPORTS

There's no derailing the Express



AIR21 import Shawn Daniels barrels past a Purefoods triple team in last night's game. RODEL ROTONI

David, Telan lift Air21; Bulls score

GAME TODAY (*Araullo Gym, Cabanatuan City*)
6 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs. Welcoat

By Musong R. Castillo

EVEN THE BEST IMPORT couldn't stop the Air21 Express from chugging on.

Gary David dropped 32 points and Mark Clemence Telan churned out a career game in leading the Express to a 107-103 overtime nail-biter over Purefoods at the Cuneta Astrodome last night, a victory that allowed Air21 to keep the PBA Fiesta Cup lead.

David scored eight of his total in extra time and Telan scattered 27 points and grabbed 21 rebounds—the highest totals in both departments in his eight-year career—as they joined hands in spoiling a brilliant game by Marquin Chandler.

In winning for the fourth straight time, Air21 thus stayed on top and improved the franchise's best-ever start while dealing the Tender Juicy Giants their fourth defeat in five outings overall.

Chandler scored 42 points and collared 21 boards, almost singlehandedly leading the Giants back from as many as 19 points down.

But the Express hung tough with Telan and David taking turns in chopping the Giants down to size even if Air21 import Shawn Daniels managed just eight points.

Red Bull broke away in the third quarter and went on to massacre Sta. Lucia in the second game, 114-79, for solo second place.

The Bulls, who were coming off a 105-111 loss to Barangay Ginebra, improved to 4-1 after posting the biggest winning margin for the franchise and inflicting the worst loss in the Realtors' PBA existence.

More stories on A23 to 26

Sta. Lucia, which came into the contest fresh from its first win, crashed back with a resounding thud to be at 1-3.

Daniels actually muffed two free throws with 27.6 left in regulation that could have won it for the Express, who lost a 90-88 lead in the next Purefoods play after Chandler drilled two from the line off Daniels with 19.7 seconds remaining.

David, who is the only local in the league who leads a team in scoring with close to 25 a game, completed a three-point play off Rey Evangelista with 59 seconds left in extra time that shattered the game's last tie at 100 and kept the Express ahead for good.

The scores:

First Game

AIR21 107—David 32, Telan 27, Arboleda 14, Santos 9, Daniels 8, Canaleta 8, Se 5, Dimaunahan 4, Bernardo 0, Torion 0.

PUREFOODS 103—Chandler 42, Yap 27, Salvarod 8, Yee 7, Castillo 7, Simon 5, Evangelista 3, Artadi 2, Camaso 2, Gamboa 0.

Quarters: 23-18, 52-38, 70-72, 90-all, 107-103.

Second Game

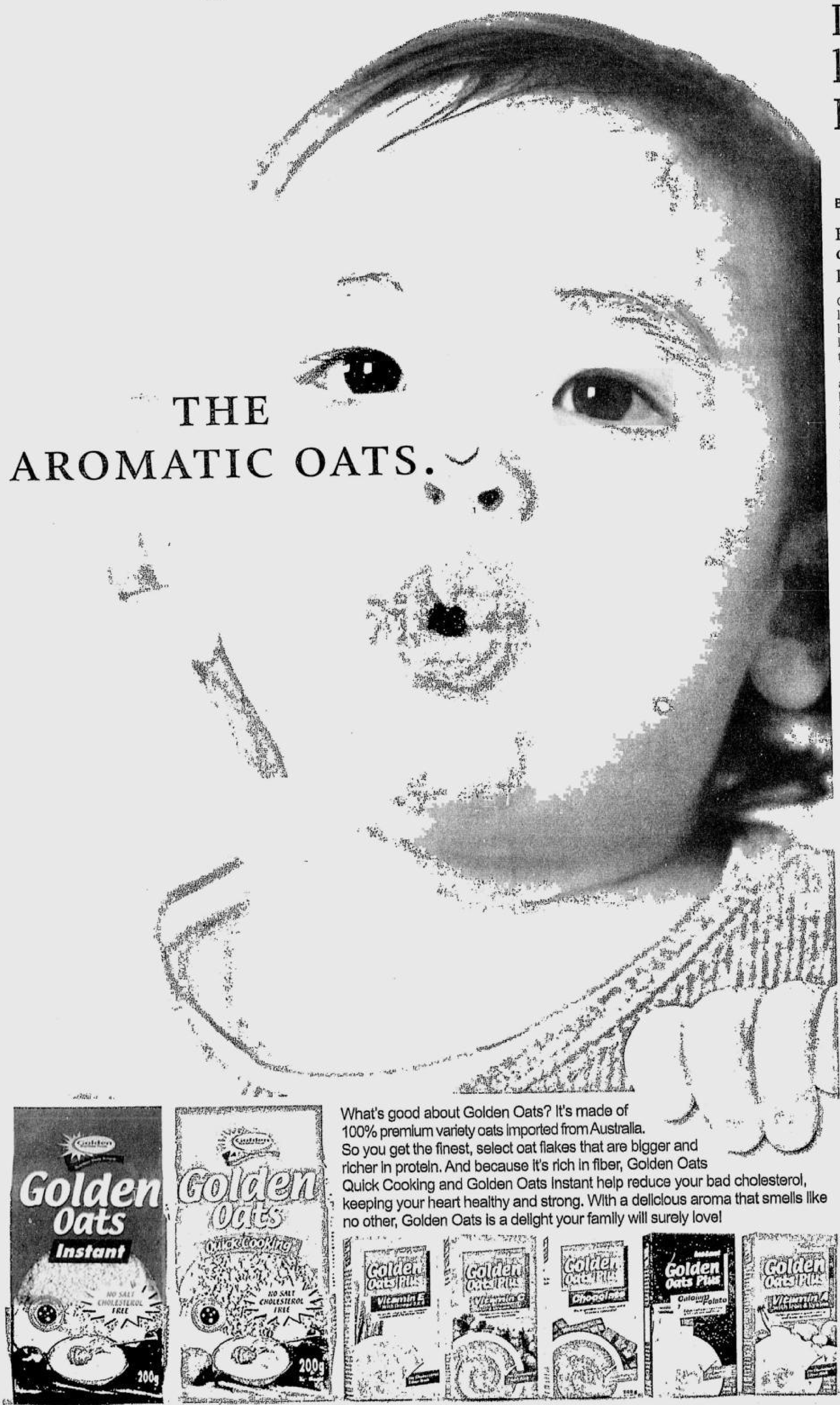
RED BULL 114—Penny 23, Villanueva 19, Baguio 12, Sharma 10, Valenzuela 10, Fonacier 8, Alvarez 7, Cruz 7, Robinson 6, Hrabak 5, Najorda 3, Bugia 2, Ybanez 2.

STA. LUCIA 79—Williams 21, Winston 15, Omolon 12, Bughao 11, Catli 6, Espino 6, Mendoza 3, Calimag 2, Gonzales 2, Cabagnot 1, Isip 0, Duremdes 0, Aquino 0.

Quarters: 21-17, 44-35, 78-55, 114-79

SEA Games tryouts today

SOME 128 DANCE COUPLES WILL SEE ACTION IN the second round of the 2007 Southeast Asian Games and the DSCPI 1st Quarter Ranking and Competitions-Alaxan FR Cup at 10 a.m. today at Philsports Arena. Held under the auspices of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines Inc. headed by Becky Garcia, the event will feature veteran and new faces competing in both Latin and Standard discipline in several events. Five International Dance Sport Federation (IDSF) licensed adjudicators from Europe and Asia will act as judges in the tournament. The event is organized by the DSCPI board composed of lawyer Noel Laman, chair; Becky Garcia, president; lawyer Josefina de Vera-Saliva, secretary general; Gloria Alcala, treasurer; and directors laywer Andy Fornier, Marvie Cojuanco-Yulo, Ambassador Antonio Lagdameo, Edward Hayco, Ruby Co, Chona Mercado, Nanette Mendoza, Emma Nieto, Rebecca Jose, Crisaldo Rendon and Victoria Alix. Tickets are available at the Dance Sport Training Center, Philsports Complex, Meralco Avenue Call Anna Lonen at 635-0116



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DPWH strikes back vs billboard owners

Dept. teams up with DOJ in going after proprietors of illegal structures

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FACING A STRING OF CASES AFTER DEmolishing illegal billboards in the metropolis, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is also set to file charges against owners of these structures.

"We will start with the biggest violator first as well as the company with the most number of illegal billboards," DPWH legal officer Juan Talion Jr. said yesterday.

Putting up illegal billboards is a violation of special laws, like provisions in the National Building Code, he added.

If found guilty, billboard owners could be imprisoned from six months up to a maximum of 20 years, with a P20,000-fine, Talion said.

The DPWH's hands had been tied regarding the issue of bringing down the billboards because of pending cases filed against it by wealthy billboard owners.

Department officials met on Wednesday with Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Richard Fadullon, whose team would be the DPWH's counterpart in prosecuting owners of illegal billboards, he added.

This is provided in the administrative order Malacañang issued last year creating a special task force to regulate billboards, said the DPWH official.

The order provided for the creation of a special task force composed of DPWH, DOJ and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority officials to "evaluate the findings of DPWH (and) investigate owners of billboards and public officials for the purpose of determining the filing of appropriate civil, criminal or administrative cases."

This is the strategy the department is planning to take to push through with its drive in the metropolis, since billboards here are more difficult to access for dismantling, compared to those in the provinces, National Building Code Development Office director Emmanuel Cuntapay also said.

A court order would facilitate access to billboards, since the demolition would also result in traffic jams, and therefore coordination with other government agencies is needed.

Cuntapay had earlier said they were planning to file charges against owners who lease their properties to billboard owners.

The most common violation along Edsa is the failure to observe the 8-meter setback from the main road. Cuntapay said the tip of free-standing billboards should be at least eight meters away from Edsa.

The area occupied by billboards on rooftops should also not exceed one third of the area of the supporting roof so that in case of accidents, the billboard would fall within the supporting roof and not directly on the ground below.

Cuntapay said erecting a billboard usually costs only about P1.5 million. Renting each structure could run as high as P600,000 every three months, he added.

The DPWH inspected on Tuesday billboards on the 88-kilometer North Luzon Expressway and saw that not one of the structures conformed with the law.

Notices of violation had already been sent to owners of these billboards. Unless these are dismantled, the department will start tearing the structures down starting next week, Cuntapay said.

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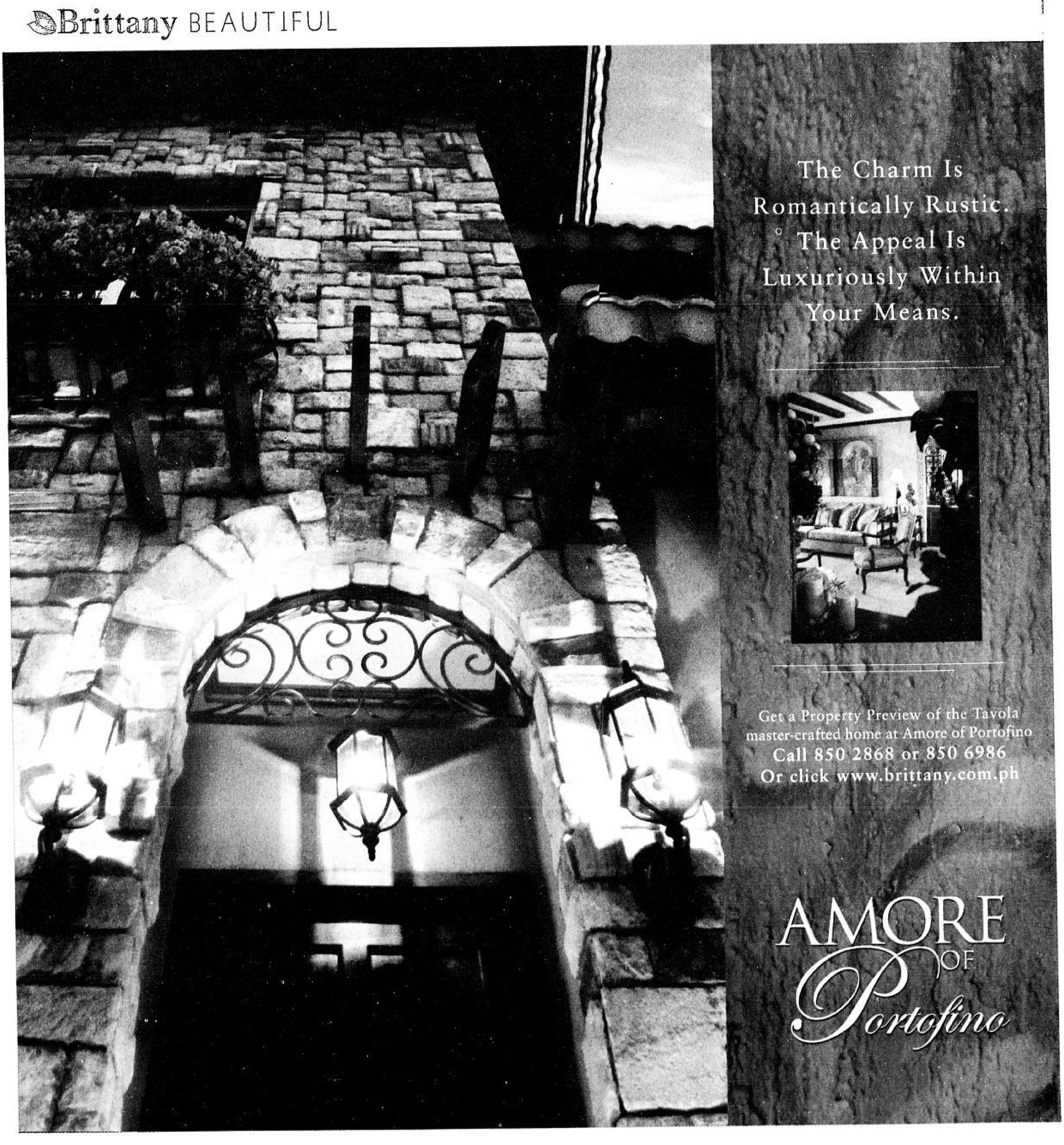
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Gonzalez couldn't have left hospital, says doctor

By Allison W. Lopez

THE PSYCHIATRIST OF LUIS MANUEL "Louie" Gonzalez said it was "highly unlikely" his patient could have escaped the day his stepbrother was killed.

"He was a shabu addict, but he was in rehab at the time of the killing," Dr. Jon Edward Jurilla, told the INQUIRER yesterday. He said his patient was positive for methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu).

"It is impossible for him to leave, especially at night when there are only two exits open at the Makati Medical Center. Only a few people have keys to the door. There have always been attempts by patients to escape but in the last 15 years, we haven't had any," he said, adding that the wooden doors had three locks outside.

Gonzalez is the Manila police's prime suspect in the killing on March 10 of businessman Federico "Rico" Delgado. The Manila Police homicide division's Chief Insp. Alex Yanquiling filed murder and frustrated murder charges against Gonzalez in the Chief Prosecutor's Office yesterday. Gonzalez's driver, Antonio Buenaflor, who is still at large, was also named respondent.

Dr. Jurilla, who has worked for nine years in the hospital, corroborated earlier statements by Gonzalez's lawyer, Perry Pe. He said his patient was first brought to the Asian Hospital on March 7 then transferred to MMC's psychiatric unit the same evening, and was confined there until March 18.

Yanquiling, however, said their source insisted Gonzalez was admitted at the hospital on March 12, two days after the incident, but the police had no records confirming the information. Gonzalez was supposedly a "denied" patient. Under MMC procedures, the staff would deny to anyone a patient's confinement in the facility.

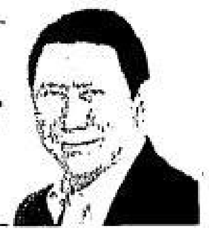
Dr. Jurilla claimed he saw Gonzalez in the hospital on the afternoon of March 10, when the killing occurred. Gonzalez had been diagnosed with "drug-induced psychotic disorder," a condition that made him "agitated and paranoid," he said. "He was shouting, saying a lot of nasty things, and that there were conspiracies going on around him.." Anti-depressants and anti-psychotic medicines were given to Gonzalez to sedate him, he added.

The doctor said Gonzalez was affected by his mother's death, his separation from wife, singer Kuh Ledesma, and his "love-hate" relationship with sister Ruby G. Meyer.

Lampposts of gold?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



I HEARD FORMER LABOR Secretary Ruben Torres is running for governor of Zambales.

If there's anybody who fits the job, it's Torres, whom I personally know. His concern for his fellowmen is not a put-on.

During the 1990 Gulf War, Torres was at Al Chafji, a city on the border of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Torres met Pinoys who were fleeing Kuwait and personally pleaded with Saudi border guards to let them in.

Torres had predicted war before it broke out. Months before, he was already looking for possible evacuation centers in Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

He didn't have to go to the Middle East to supervise the evacuation of our contract workers there. He could have done that in the comforts of his air-conditioned office.

But Torres told me: "Mon, there should be a government presence in the Middle East to show Filipino workers we care for them. I am the Secretary of Labor, so I must be there."

* * *

The lampposts controversy in Cebu will be talked about for a long time because of the brazenness involved in the purchase. The controversy involves alleged overpricing the lampposts by as much as 2,000 percent.

Among those linked to the scandal, my sources in Cebu told me, is Fabmik Construction and Equipment Co. Inc. It allegedly jacked up the lampposts to P300,000 each or about 2,000 percent increase over the industry rate.

In justifying the increase, Fabmik president Isabelo Braza said they installed a "special system," and that his men worked overtime to finish the project.

But my sources said no matter how one looks at it, the price of the lampposts shouldn't cost that much.

"*Baka naman gawa sa diamante ang mga ilaw nila* (Perhaps their lampposts are made of diamonds)," a source said in jest. By the way Braza's firm also supplies lampposts and similar equipment to the National Power Corp.

* * *

From a virtual unknown before the "Jose Pidal" controversy, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo is in the limelight again because of his quarrel with his estranged wife, Alicia Morales-Arroyo.

I sympathize with Iggy because I find him a very nice person and very unassuming. I hope he gets over his problem.

Pateros dream of congressional district now reality

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE FORMER MAYOR OF PATEROS IS HOPING that his tiny town will finally have its own representative after living in neighboring Taguig's shadow for some 20 years.

"There are qualified candidates in Pateros who can run for Congress. We have bankers, teachers, lawyers, engineers and architects...," says Jose Capco Jr., who was mayor for nearly 12 years.

Taguig and Pateros will be electing two congressmen this May. The first district will consist of Pateros and the Taguig barangays Bagong Bayan, Lower Bicutan, Hagunoy, Wawa, Tuktukan, Ususan, Sta. Ana, Calzada, Palingon, Ligid-Tipas, Ibayo-Tipas and Napindan.

The Taguig barangays of Bagong Tanyag, Maharlika, Upper Bicutan, Western Bicutan and Signal Village will make up the second district.

Capco sees this split as a chance for the people of the town known for *balut* and *alfombra* slippers be heard.

"For 20 years, the sole congressman of our district was always from Taguig... Maybe (now) they could let us have the first district," he said in Filipino.

Two Taguig congressmen represented the lone district for nearly 20 years: Dante Tinga, from 1987 to 1998, and Alan Peter Cayetano, from 1998 to 2004. Cayetano is currently running for senator, while his wife Lani is rumored to be eyeing the first congressional district of Taguig-Pateros. Another Taguig councilor, Arnel Serafica, is reported to be interested in the same post.

Capco, on the other hand, ran unsuccessfully against Cayetano for congressman in 2001. He said he wanted to win the hearts of his townmates to secure the first congressional district for Pateros.

"Everybody likes the idea (of Pateros getting a chance at representation), but not everybody understands it," he told the INQUIRER.

It is no secret that Capco is planning to run again as congressman, even without a big-time political machinery.

Eventually, he would want Pateros to have a district separate from Taguig, with its own congressman and the P70 million pork barrel for its own needs. He said both Taguig and Pateros would benefit from the new set-up.

METROBRIEFS

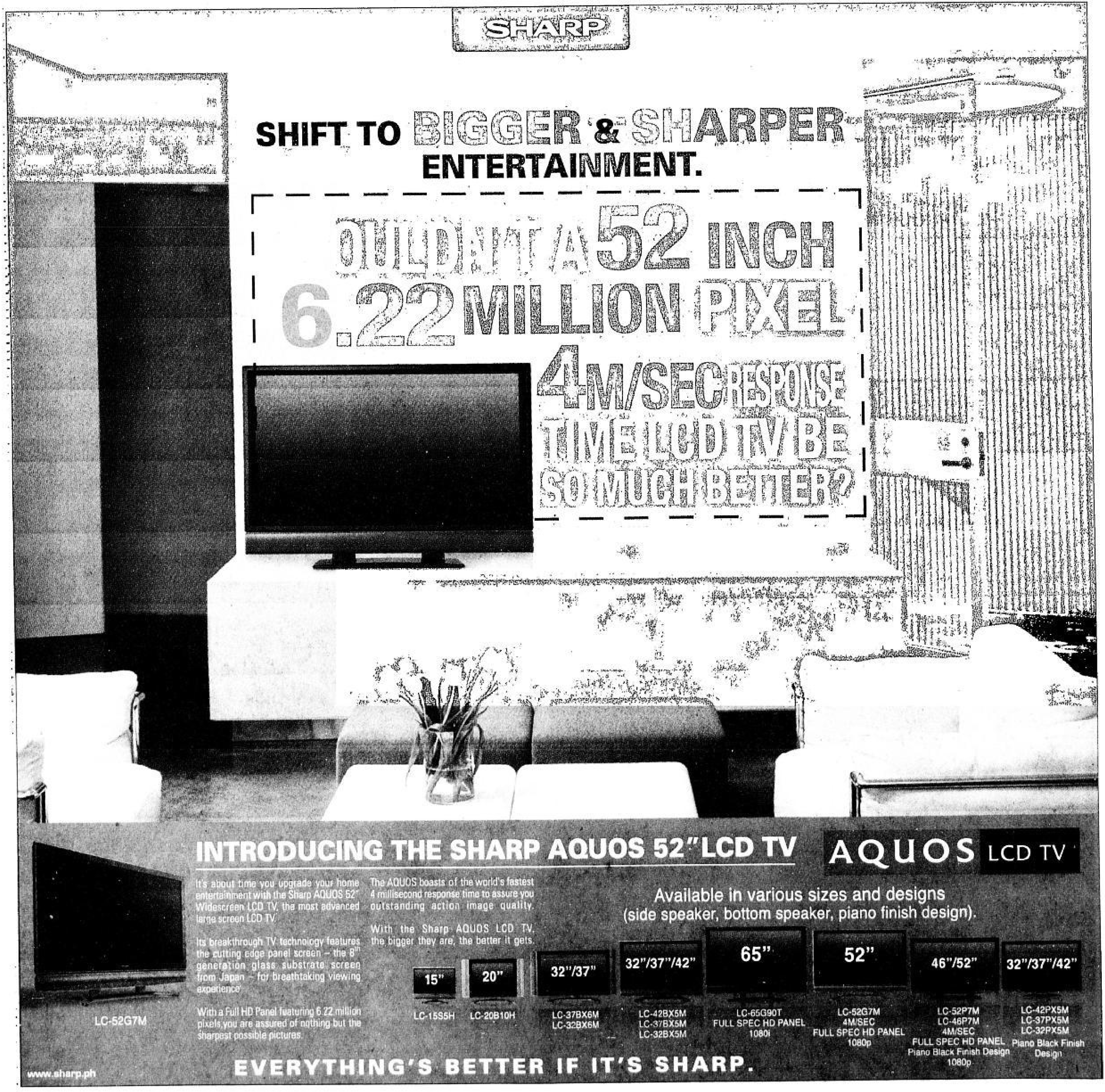
Beware of fake luncheon meat

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday warned consumers about fake luncheon meat allegedly unfit for human consumption being distributed in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. The warning came following the seizure by NBI agents of a truckload or 48,000 cans of luncheon meat bearing the name "Ma-Zing"—a take on the popular Ma-Ling brand. The estimated worth of fake canned goods, confiscated from a warehouse in Juan Luna Street, Tondo, Manila on Thursday, was placed at P1.5 million. The items were reportedly imported from China.

Tina G. Santos

Baywalk sports fest

THE 6TH Manila Bay Summer Sea Sports Festival will be held today at Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard. The festival is a two day-long event organized by the Manila Broadcasting Company, the City of Manila and the Philippine Coast Guard. Top athletes and sea sports enthusiasts will compete in dragon boat racing, sailing, beach volleyball, and wall climbing.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Deadly Africa TB strain now seen in rich nations

UNITED NATIONS—A NEW deadly form of tuberculosis spreading through South Africa has now been found in rich nations in Europe as well as Canada and the United States, the World Health Organization said on Thursday.

Africa's large AIDS population is at special risk from the particularly virulent strain, known as XDR-TB (extremely drug resistant), which had been documented in 35 countries worldwide, 16 of them this year alone.

"This is the most urgent thing I have seen in my 15 years of working on tuberculosis," said Mario Raviglione, director of the STOP TB program at the World Health Organization. He introduced WHO's TB report, which coincides with the 125th anniversary of the discovery of the microbe that causes TB.

"If it keeps spreading, as it has in South Africa, then we are really in trouble," Raviglione said.

Some two billion people worldwide live with TB, an airborne illness that is normally treatable through inexpensive medication. But if the disease is not diagnosed and treated, it can mutate into drug-resistant strains.

In 2005, nearly nine million people caught tuberculosis and 1.6 million died of it, about the same as the year before, which showed that containment efforts were working, Raviglione said. The epidemic is centered primarily in Asia and in Africa, which accounted for 84 percent of the total.

Raviglione said the new strain was spotted in rich nations also, such as the United States, Canada, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Sweden, the former Soviet Union and elsewhere.

In the industrialized nations, XDR-TB increased from 3 percent to 11 percent in 2005, WHO said without giving precise numbers of victims.

A cure is not available. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Munition sites still feed Iraq violence

WASHINGTON—As of October 2006 US forces had still not secured all of the unguarded munition sites in Iraq, allowing thieves to keep stealing war material and stoke the country's violence, a US government report said Thursday. The Government Accountability Office said that not enough soldiers were available to take control of massive arms dumps across Iraq after the March 2003 invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein. "Not securing these conventional munitions storage site has been costly, as government reports indicated that looted munitions are being used to make improvised explosive devices (IED) that have killed or maimed many people, and will likely continue to support terrorist attacks in the region," the GAO report summary reads. *AFP*

Ex-astronaut pleads not guilty

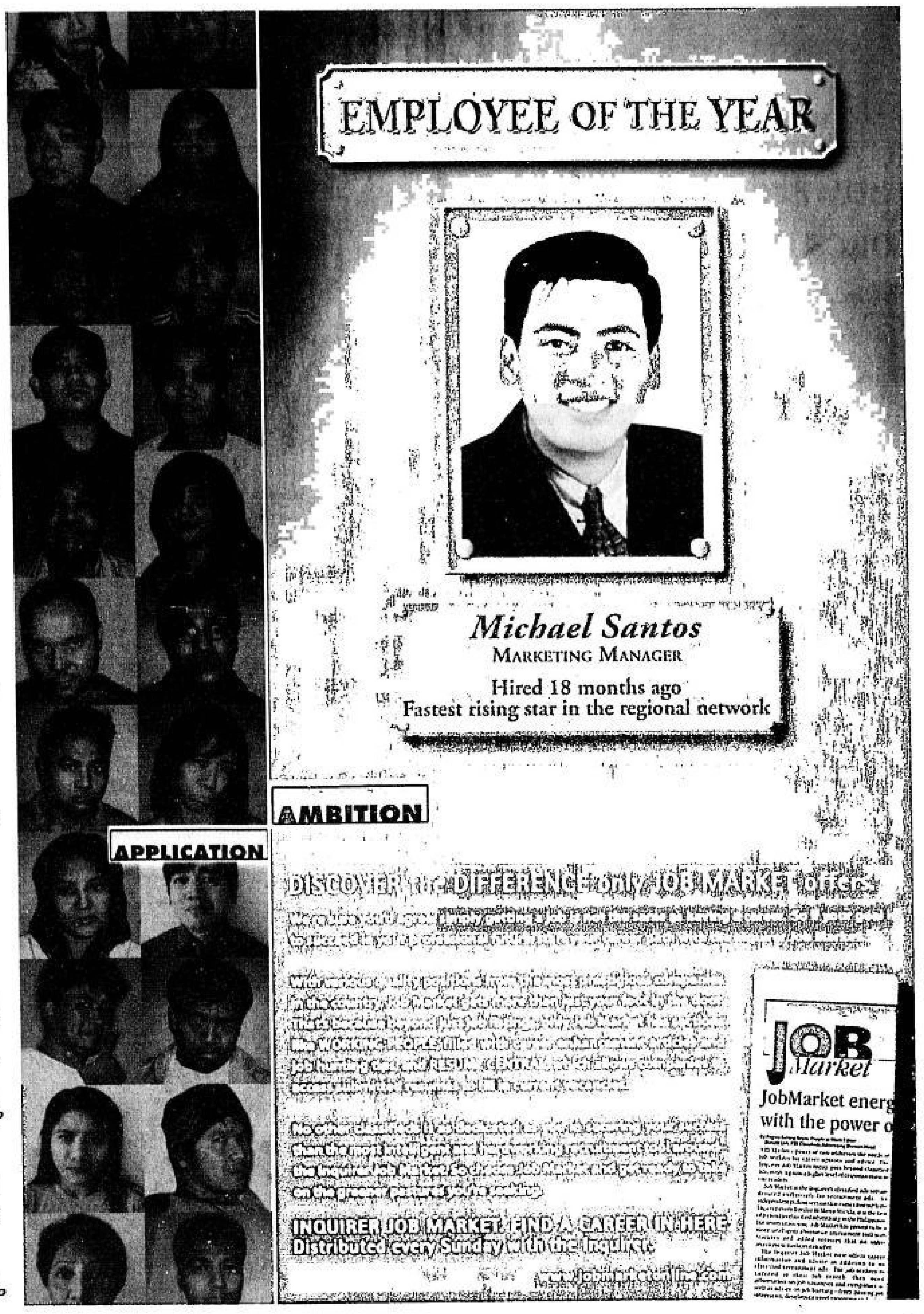
MIAMI—Former US astronaut Lisa Nowak on Thursday pleaded not guilty to attempting to kidnap a love rival she had allegedly confronted after driving hundreds of kilometers wearing a diaper. Nowak's lawyer entered the plea in writing, and the former astronaut was not present at the arraignment in Orlando, Florida. A mother of three who has flown aboard Space Shuttle Discovery, Nowak, 43, was arrested on Feb. 5. Police said there was "probable cause" to believe she had intended to murder her alleged romantic rival. But she was charged with attempted kidnapping rather than attempted murder. Police said she drove more than 1,500 km from Houston, Texas, to Orlando to attack Colleen Shipman, wearing a diaper so she would not have to take bathroom breaks. Nowak allegedly thought Shipman, a US Air Force captain, shared her romantic interest in 41-year-old shuttle pilot Bill Oefelein. *AFP*

Dems throw down gauntlet over firings

WASHINGTON—Pressure mounted on US President George W. Bush Thursday as for the second time in two days US lawmakers authorized subpoenas of White House aides in a controversy over purged prosecutors. The Senate Judiciary Affairs Committee allowed its chair, Patrick Leahy, to issue the subpoenas in its probe into whether the eight attorneys were dismissed for political reasons late last year. The vote came after a House of Representatives panel on Wednesday agreed that five senior administration officials, including Bush's top political advisor, Karl Rove, should be summoned for questioning. Bush, whose ties with the Democratic-controlled Congress have been strained over the war in Iraq, has vowed to fight any subpoenas, accusing the Democrats of a "partisan fishing expedition." *AFP*

13 dead in Mozambique blast

MAPUTO—At least 13 people were killed and around 100 more injured Thursday when Mozambique's largest arms depot exploded near Maputo International Airport, witnesses and doctors said. The series of blasts went off near the impoverished neighborhood of Magoanine at around dusk on the outskirts of the capital causing widespread panic in the city. Exploding weapons in the armory ignited those around them, leading to the series of explosions. *AFP*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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Edwards says wife's cancer back, won't abandon race

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.—JOHN EDwards, the North Carolina Democrat, said Thursday that his wife's cancer had returned in incurable form. He proclaimed that he would continue his bid for the presidency, saying, "The campaign goes on strongly."

The announcement here by Edwards and his wife, Elizabeth, followed an emotional 72-hour stretch in which Elizabeth Edwards on Monday reported pains to her doctor and learned that her cancer might have returned, and Edwards cut short a trip in Iowa on Tuesday to fly back on a charter plane. The couple, alone, went to the University of North Carolina hospital on Wednesday for a daylong battery of tests that confirmed the diagnosis.

The tests completed, the Edwardses summoned a handful of aides to the living room of their home near here at 6 p.m. Wednesday, where John Edwards informed them of the diagnosis and his wife said that the campaign would continue unabated, participants said.

The news that Edwards cut short his Iowa trip had created anxiety and alarm among his campaign aides and supporters familiar with his wife's earlier battle with breast cancer.

Aides to Edwards said he had not discussed dropping out or suspending his campaign with them, and in a midday press conference Thursday he suggested that in private talks with his wife, he had offered to pull out of the race, but she had insisted he stay in.

"I'm absolutely ready for this," Elizabeth Edwards, 57, said. "I mean, I don't look sickly, I don't feel sickly. And I'm as ready as any person can be for that."

Elizabeth Edwards' doctor said at the news conference that she had metastatic, or Stage 4, breast cancer, meaning that it is in an advanced stage that has spread beyond the breast and lymph nodes, in her case to the bone.

According to statistics from the American Cancer Society, only 26.1 percent of patients with Stage 4 breast cancer live five years or more, but those figures are by nature outdated and do not reflect recent medical advances.

John Edwards said many patients had lived many years, managing their condition in a way he likened to people with diabetes who rely on insulin treatment. *NYT*

JOHN Edwards and his wife Elizabeth Edwards March 22. AFP

3 arrested over 2005 London suicide bombs

LONDON—THREE MEN WERE ARRESTED ON Thursday in connection with the al-Qaida-inspired suicide bombings on London's public transport network two years ago, in a possible breakthrough for investigators.

Two men, aged 23 and 30, were arrested shortly before 1 p.m. at Manchester Airport, northwest England, as they were about to board a flight to Pakistan, the Metropolitan Police said in a statement.

A third, aged 26, was arrested at a house in Leeds, northern England, shortly after 4 p.m. Three of the four suicide bombers were from the Beeston area of the city.

The three men arrested—said to be all from Leeds—are suspected of the "commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism" under the Terrorism Act 2000 and faced questioning at a central London police station.

Meanwhile, searches were being carried out at five houses in Beeston, including one on the street where one of the bombers lived with his parents, as well as at a flat and separate business premises in east London.

Fifty-two people were killed when four Islamist extremist suicide bombers—three of them Britons of Pakistani origin and one a naturalized Jamaican—set off rucksack bombs on three London Underground trains and a double-decker bus.

The attack, at the height of rush hour on July 7, 2005, also injured more than 700 in what was the worst-ever terrorist atrocity on British soil and the first such suicide attack in Europe.

Nobody has yet been charged in relation to the bombings.

The bombings were followed exactly two weeks later by an apparent copycat attack which failed. Six men are currently on trial for that alleged attempt.

Commenting on Thursday's arrests, the government's independent watchdog of antiterrorism legislation, Lord Alexander Carlile said: "Anybody who imagined that this had simply been treated as four lone wolves, or a lone pack of wolves, on July 7, 2005, is very wrong." He told BBC television: "There is a lot of work going on. A rigorous hunt is going on for everyone connected to the 7/7 attacks and … nobody involved in those attacks can lie easy in their beds without expecting police to turn up one day and arrest them for very, very serious crimes. *AFP*

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WILD CARD GYM

Manny a delight in full sparring

By Reach Trinidad

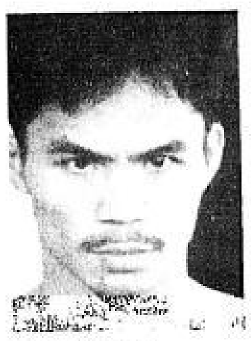
HE HAD HIS CONDITIONING coach worried sick after he failed to show up for training at the Wild Card Boxing Club in California.

He experienced unscheduled weight loss, registering only 137 lbs., while working out in hot, humid General Santos City.

He dabbled in politics, allowed himself to be distracted, thereby raising well-founded fears he was cramming again for his next fight.

In a flash, Manny Pacquiao yesterday quashed all apprehensions.

He sparred ten furious rounds at Wild Card and the result, based on eyewitness account, was stupendous, a few solid connections short of super.



PACQUIAO

"On target! He sparred 10 rounds for the first time since arriving here, and he moved very well, all throughout, against three opponents," reported GMA-7's Chino Trinidad.

Pacquiao was so upbeat, bubbly he took over and identified himself as the Sports Saksi reporter over dzBB yesterday morning.

Amused Saksi anchor Mike Enriquez, who ended up interviewing Pacquiao, was himself told not to worry.

Pacquiao was not exactly looking past unbeaten Jorge Solis, but he told Enriquez it would be very nice to next bang it up with Juan Manuel Marquez, newly crowned WBC 130-pound champion.

"*Mabuti 'yon para magka-alaman na talaga* (The better to erase all doubts)," Pacquiao told Enriquez.

Yesterday marked the first time since he checked in at Wild Card on March 20 that Pacquiao dared display available skills and stamina.

He was nearly two weeks late at the Hollywood gym but reporter Trinidad claimed Pacquiao was being modest when he said he was only 70 percent ready.

"His body is already sharply chiseled, no sign of fat, or any looseness, he was never short of breath," the GMA man noted.

Pacquiao, who works out again today, is scheduled to have as visitor unbeaten Jorge Solis (32-0) whom he fights in Texas April 14.

Solis failed to make it to last Wednesday's fight press conference in a downtown restaurant in Los Angeles reportedly due to a visa hassle in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao had told the Filipino reporter, an old friend, to skip questions on politics.

They instead hied off to a nearby Vietnamese restaurant where they savored noodles which, Pacquiao later reminisced, was as good as the steaming bowl the two of them shared in Palawan when the Pacman was still a hungry, shallow, struggling six-round slugger.

Familiar ref for Pacman, Solis bout

VIC DRAKULICH, THE THIRD MAN IN the ring when Erik Morales suffered a third-round demolition in Las Vegas last November, will again be the referee when Manny Pacquiao defends his WBC International super-featherweight crown on April 14 against Mexico's Jorge Solis.

The assignment was announced yesterday by WBC president Jose Sulaiman, who earlier ordered newly crowned WBC super featherweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez to next make a crown defense against Pacquiao.

Drakulich had also worked bouts of Oscar De la Hoya, Jorge Arce, Shane Mosley, Juan Manuel Marquez, Jose Luis Castillo and Joel Casamayor.

Picked as judges for the Pacquiao-Solis tiff in Texas were Larry O'Connell (England), Gale Van Hoy (Texas), and Oren Shellenberger (Texas). *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

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Ardina charge fuels best RP finish

By Musong R. Castillo

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—DOTTIE ARDINA MADE A swirling back nine charge that made all the difference, and the Philippine campaign in the 29th Queen Sirikit Cup that was spearheaded by the prodigious 13-year-old proved to be the country's finest.

ARDINA RYAN LIM

The pocket-sized teener gunned down six birdies in the back nine yesterday for a two-over-par 74 and then watched Japan's Mika Miyazato four-putt the 18th that gave the Philippines a second place behind powerhouse Korea.

It was the country's best-ever finish in the Asia-Pacific region's official ladies team championship, and Ardina's third place finish also erased the country's previous best chalked up by Jennifer Rosales in 1997 at Manila Golf.

"Despite their age, they played matured enough," said non-playing RP captain Cora Suntay, who also skippered a team made up of Mary Grace Estuesta, Lina de Guzman and Yvette de Leon for third place in the late 1980s.

"They played against older, more seasoned opponents, yet they didn't blow up."

Regina de Guzman matched Ardina's output despite a double bogey 6 on 18 as the Philippines tallied 148 for the day for a 54-hole total of 434, 20 shots behind the sizzling Koreans who were again led by 17-year-old Ryu So-Yeon.

Ryu won the individual championship after shooting a 68 for a 12-under 204, easily turning back compatriot Choi He-yong, who fired a 73 for 210 before Ardina's level 216.

Azako Fujimoko assembled a 74 for the top Japanese score, but Miyazato's boo-boo which led to a 78 made them lose a three-stroke overnight lead on the Philippines. Japan fired a final day 152 for 435.

Ardina actually ended up tied with Kiwi Dasom Lee, but won via a countback with Lee shooting a 75. De Guzman, who saw action for the RP team for the first time, was fifth with a 218.

The youngest member of the RP pool and possibly the youngest in the tournament, Ardina actually dropped two shots in the first hole after a woeful four-putt from 25 feet before making the turn at 42, six-over.

But the stocky Ardina didn't crack and steadily made up for her front nine errors by birdieing her first three holes in the back, dropping a shot on No. 13 and clustering three straight birds again from 14.

MEMBERS of the triumphant Korean squad (from left): Choi He-young, Ryu So-yeon, Kim Sei-young. RYAN LIM

BEACH VOLLEY

Overconfidence clips wings of fancied Falcons

By June Navarro

OVERCONFIDENCE CAN SOMEtimes be lethal.

Adamson University blew its stint to defend the crown the Falcons won last year after dropping the games that mattered most at the end of the 2007 Nestea Beach Volleyball Luzon qualifying yesterday at the La Salle Greenhills sand court.

Mike Alinsunurin and Sherwin Meneses had an overdose of self-assurance that cost them not only a trip to the national championships in Boracay but also the chance to become the first back-to-back champions of the decade-old tournament.

After racking up two wins in the first two days, Meneses and Alinsunurin bowed to FEU's Joshua Alcarde and Jeremy Floyd Pedregosa, 21-9, 16-21, 15-11, the same tandem they disposed the day before to emerge as the only unbeaten duo before the playoffs.

They had another crack at advancing to the championships slated April 19-21 but Meneses and Alinsunurin bungled the opportunity when Michael Manuel and Harold Pavia of St. Francis of Assisi College prevailed, 21-19, 21-16, in their make-or-break matchup.

On their final year of eligibility, Alinsunurin and Meneses boasted the other day that they are 70-percent sure of advancing into the finals where three men's and women's teams will clash with the finalists from the Visayas and Mindanao.

Adamson's misery, however, became FEU's gain.

Following their disposal of Alinsunurin and Meneses, Alcarde and Pedregosa went on to top the Luzon eliminations by downing Eric John Genil and Alvin Medina of Philippine Christian University, 21-18, 22-20, in the men's finale.

"We tried to improve our defense by becoming more aggressive on blocking their shots," said Alcarde, 19, in Filipino, referring to their pivotal match against Adamson.

Aside from FEU and PCU, Manuel and Pavia of St. Francis also advanced to the men's championships by virtue of their victory over Meneses and Alinsunurin.

"We have three weeks to think about Boracay. For now, we just have to practice hard and prepare for the championships," said Alcarde, a third-year sports recreation major.

The Tamaraws actually made it a double victory after Wendy Anne Semana and Lorelin Astorga walloped Lyceum's Sherrilyn Carrilo and Jane Kathleen Jarin, 21-16, 21-15, in the women's finals.

Adamson's Hannah Suarez and Rissa Jane Laguilles accomplished what Meneses and Alinsunurin failed to achieve after booting out Cathlea Villaluz and Arlene Bernardo, 21-9, 21-5, in the most lopsided game of the tournament.

Suarez and Laguilles joined Semana, Astorga, Carrilo and Jarin to complete the Luzon cast of finalists in the women's division.

The Visayas eliminations will be held on March 27-28 to be followed by the Mindanao qualifying on March 29-30. Six teams from the men's and women's division will advance to Boracay after the Visayas and Mindanao eliminations.

HANNAH Suarez (left) and Rissa Jane Laguilles of Adamson University make a return gainst Wendy Anne Semana and Lorelin Astorga of FEU. ERNIE SARMIENTO

Let probe proceed, says PCU mentor

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY APpears to be to be feeling the heat.

Two members of its senior basketball lineup have reportedly volunteered to pack up and leave for the province for good, fearing they might get banned for life, a reliable school source said yesterday.

The apprehensive players, the same source bared, are incoming freshmen from the PCU Baby Dolphins team being investigated by the National College Athletic Association management committee.

However, head coach Joel Dualan—whose charges are out to avenge a title defeat against San Beda this coming season—has reportedly prevailed upon the two players to stay and let the investigation proceed first.

Dualan would not confirm the reports, but he did admit that, from last year's junior team, juniors MVP Elvin Pascual and Mythical selection member Ralph Lansang have already started practicing with the senior squad.

"From my end, I continue to conduct practice. I told my players to just go on with what we are tasked to do which is to prepare for the coming season," Dualan told the INQUIRER.

"In the meantime let the investigation take its course and whatever our superiors tell us, that's what we will do," he added. "It is that simple."

The coach said they rely on Fred Olano, PCU representative to the management committee, to speak on behalf of the school regarding the case, which is already being compared to what happened to UAAP last season.

The UAAP had slapped a one-year ban on La Salle over two basketball players found to have tampered school records.

Jamaican police suspect cricket coach knew killer

LONDON—JAMAICAN POLICE think it likely that Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer was strangled by someone he knew after his team's defeat at cricket's World Cup showpiece, a senior officer told British radio Friday.

"It seems difficult to believe at this stage that it was a complete stranger," the deputy police commissioner in Kingston Mark Shields said in an interview with BBC Radio Live.

"It is imperative that we keep an open mind, but I have to say at this stage it looks as if it may be somebody somehow linked to him, because clearly he let somebody into his hotel room and it may be that he knew who that person was."

Shields said that police were studying video recordings from the hotel's closed circuit television cameras but had not yet found anything suspicious.

Shields also "unequivocally dismissed" rumors that arrests had been made. "That's nonsense, as far as I'm concerned. There's actually no truth in that," he said.

In a press conference Thursday, Jamaican police spokesperson Karl Angell confirmed Woolmer had been the victim of foul play.

"The pathologist report states that Mr Woolmer's death was due to asphyxia as a result of manual strangulation," Angell said.

"In these circumstances, the matter of Mr Robert Woolmer's death is now being treated by the Jamaica police as a case of murder."

Woolmer was declared dead in hospital Sunday after being found unconscious in his room. He was 58.

The day before Pakistan—the 1992 World Cup winners—were knocked out of the 2007 version in the Caribbean.

"I don't want to talk about suspects at this stage," Shields said Thursday.

He suggested more than one person may have been involved because he was a large man and probably difficult to subdue.

Pakistan team spokesperson Pervez Mir meanwhile underlined that there was no question of the Pakistan team having been detained or prevented from leaving Jamaica. *AFP*

SSC: Hiring Gallent first step back to old glory

By Jasmine W. Payo

A FADING BASKETBALL POWERHOUSE will prove that it still has what it takes to go for another NCAA championship run.

And for San Sebastian, hiring champion coach Jorge Gallent is a good first step.

Gallent, who steered Harbour Centre to back-to-back championships in the PBL, will call the shots for the Stags in the next senior basketball season after finalizing agreements with school officials last Thursday.

"For a long time, I wanted to serve as head coach of a college team," said Gallent.

The 37-year-old Gallent replaced Raymund Valenzona, the son of San Sebastian's long-time champion mentor Arturo Valenzona.

Gallent guided the title drive of a young Harbour Centre crew in the 2006 Unity Cup and the 2007 Silver Cup.

But before joining the new toast of the amateurs in 2005, Gallent also suited up for Tanduay both in the PBL and the PBA.

Coaching jobs followed his brief pro stint, but Gallent often stayed in the background as an assistant mentor of Welcoat Paints in the PBL and College of St. Benilde in the NCAA.

Last season, San Sebastian College failed to advance in the Final Four after finishing near-bottom at seventh place with a 4-10 win-loss record.

The Recto-based contingent had been losing its cage luster since the elder Valenzona commanded the Stags to back-to-back titles in 2001 and 2002, and to five straight championships—the longest streak in NCAA basketball history—from 1993 to 1997.

Que 3 strokes behind leaders

BINTAN, INDONESIA—FILIPINO ANGELO Que shot his second straight 69 on Friday to stay within sight of American pacesetters Mike Cunning and Adma Blyth in the inaugural Motorola International Bintan at the Ria Bintan Golf Club.

Que was at 138, just three shots off Cunning and Blyth who fired a 69 and 70, respectively for 135.

Other Filipinos who advanced were Artemio Murakami, who was at 140 following a 68; Tony Lascuna, who shot a 70 for 143, Juvic Pagunsan, who carded a 71 for 143; and Gerald Rosales, who submitted a 71 for 144.

Mars Pucay failed to make the cut after a 74 and 146 along with Jerome Delariarte, who shot a 74 for 147 and Cookie Lao, who tallied a 77 for 152.

Korean Ted Oh maintained his push for a maiden title with Australian Scott Strange, who fired a superb 67 for 136.

VILORIA

Viloria meaner with new trainer

FIL-AMERICAN BRIAN "HAWAIIAN Punch" Viloria is looking meaner in his bid to regain the WBC light flyweight title at the Alamodome in Texas on April 14.

Viloria will fight under the Manny Pacquiao-Jorge Solis card and will face Mexico's Edgar Sosa. The bout will be aired by Solar Sports and GMA 7.

Viloria, accompanied by new trainer Dan Goosen, joined a press conference the other day at the Palms Restaurant in West Hollywood, and appeared in tremendous shape for the fight.

Viloria, in an interview with Philboxing.com, indicated that having moved to the Goosen Gym at Van Nuys, California from the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles bettered his chances to recover his old title.

"Don't get me wrong," Viloria told Philboxing.com. "I love Freddie Roach and the Wild Card people. But Freddie is spread out so thin that he can no longer give me the time I expect of him."

"We have plenty of time to train, discuss tactics and our game plan," he added. "My present set-up is best for me and I feel that will reflect on the fight night where I expect to regain the title."

Viloria is 19-1-1, with 12 KO's while Sosa has a 26-5 card with 14 KO's. *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*

Montaña-Davao downs Quezon

DAVAO CITY—DEBUTING MONTANA Pawnshop-Davao eked out a 66-62 victory over struggling Quezon Villa Anita Thursday night in the 2007 NBC National Cup basketball tournament at the Almendras gym here.

The Jewelers of businessman Armando Quibod withstood Quezon's searing rally in the final quarter to match the 1-0 card of Valencia Golden Harvest.

Robert Quibod helped key the win for Dodong Cagampan's charges with timely baskets in the stretch together with Ronald Lamocha.

Junel Jawod and Henry Fernandez led Davao in the low-scoring contest with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

Gahol, who finished with 23 points, failed to get enough support from his teammates as Quezon Gov. Wilfredo Envera's cagers fell to their third loss in four games.

The Quezonians end their three-game Mindanao swing at 6 tonight when they face Manny Pacquiao's MP Pacman Gensan also at the Almendras gym.

Gensan will be out to avenge its 64-71 loss to Quezon in the opener of the nine-team league in Lucena City two weeks ago.

The scores:

MONTANA 66—Jawod 12, Fernandez 11, Ilanga 8, Quibod 6, Canlas 6, Lamocha 6, Abanes 6, Braga 5, Dawal 3, Ayson 2, Gonzaga 0.

QUEZON 62—Gahol 23, Veranga 10, Menor 7, Mendoza 6, De Guia 5, Agapito 4, Buenaventura 2, Malonzo 2, Gonzales 0, Drio 0, Zuniga 0.

Quarters: 16-15, 32-24, 54-40, 66-62.

RUBILEN Amit will spearhead the RP women's charge. PDI PHOTO

Amit heads RP world pool bets

RUBILEN AMIT, MARY ANN BASAS AND IRIS Rañola, the so-called Big 3 of Philippine women's billiards, will try to extend the country's domination of the sport when they compete in the 2007 Amway Women's World Pool Championship in Taiwan next month.

"We will try our best to bring honor to our country just like what our men players are doing," said the 25-year-old Cebuana Amit, who is aiming to improve her last 24 finish in the tournament last year.

"We may not have the same exposure as our men players, but we won't use it as an excuse not to do well. *Ibubuhos namin ang lahat para manalo. Hindi lang ito para sa amin kundi para sa* (we'll do everything to win because this is for) Philippine women's billiards," added the 2005 Southeast Asian Games double gold medalist.

Unlike Amit, who is already seeded into the main draw, Basas and Rañola will have to go through the qualifying round slated on April 1 to 3, also in Taiwan.

The main draw, which will be led by defending champion Ga Young-Kim of Korea, will be on April 5 to 9.

For Rañola, it will be her first international test since undergoing an operation to remove three cysts on her left breast last January.

"I'm still having difficulty when I break, but I'm confident that I can bring back my A-game come tournament time," said the 27-year-old Zamboangeña, who barely missed a medal in the Doha Asian Games last year after bowing out in the semifinals.

Rañola also thanked billiards godfather Aristeo (Putch) Puyat not only for taking care of her hospital expenses but for supporting their trip to Taiwan.

The 20-year-old Basas, a top player from Davao, said Puyat had assured them he would handle their air fare for the tournament.

The three are in the middle of rigid training under national coach Ramon Ancaja and Boyet Asonto. They train Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 5-9 p.m. at the Makati Cinema Square and Tuesday-Thursday at the PSC's Gamebowl from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Before flying to Taiwan, Amit, Ranola, and Basas will see action in the First Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) Women's National Championship on March 26-31 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Manila.

The three, the top favorites to win the event presented by San Miguel Corporation, hope to use the prize money (the winner's purse is P200,000) to defray their other expenses in the WPC. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Trouble at Philracom escalates

TROUBLE IS BREWING AT THE PHILIPPINE Racing Commission (Philracom) headed by chair Florencio Fianza.

Already taking flak from several groups of horse owners led by former commissioners Ramon Balatbat and Marlon Cunanan for his proposed new handicapping rules effective April 1, Fianza has to make do with four holdover commissioners whom many industry players want out.

Posters calling for the firing of commissioners Eddie Jose, Boboc Domingo, Eyot Fernando and judicial nominee Vergel Cruz were seen posted at the Sta. Ana Park and all over Makati and Manila yesterday.

The posters called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to remove the four, citing their alleged connivance with sacked Philracom chair Jaime Dilag.

Dilag was sacked by Ms Arroyo last year upon the recommendation of Presidential Anti-Graft Commission chair Constancia de Guzman, who found him liable for malversation of public funds.

The protesting group noted that Dilag could not have acted alone in his questionable transactions, considering that the Philracom is a collegial body with Jose as co-signatory in several disbursements during Dilag's term deemed illegal by the PAGC.

These include repeated reimbursements for promotional expenses amounting to millions of pesos, and a controversial deal with both racing clubs involving prizes of the day.

The group called on the President to let go of the four, and not allow persons with tainted names to "get away with wrongdoing."

Like Dilag, Jose and company are facing graft and corruption charges at the Office of the Ombudsman, while the PAGC is looking at their possible involvement in anomalies during Dilag's term.

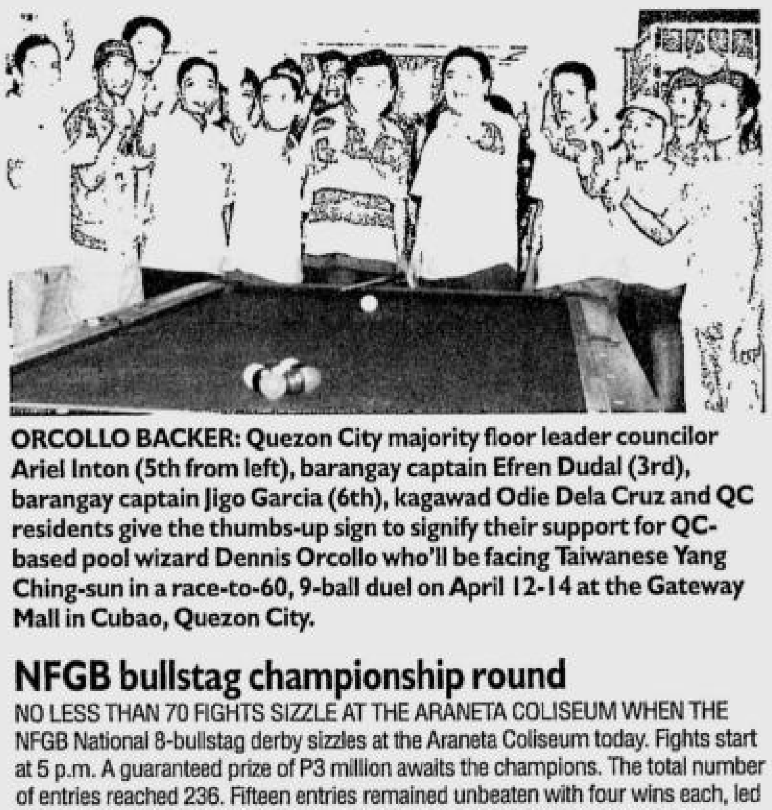
SPORTSWATCH

LPC Fastest Win: 150 entries today

A BIG FIELD OF 150 ENTRIES COMPRISED OF METRO MANILA AND PROVINcial cockers converge today at Las Piñas Coliseum as the Fastest Win One-Cock Timbangan gets going at noon. The top 10 major prizes: fastest win champion, P35,000; second, P20,000; third, P10,000; fourth to 10th placers, P5,000. To be hosted by Ariel Uy and Kernel group, the event's entry fee is P1,100. A special 3-cock derby also unfolds at LPC on March 31 with Arnold Toto, Scat JM group and Ariel Uy as hosts. Meanwhile, a bonus of P1,000 awaits the first 20 winners in LPC's special hackfights from Monday to Sunday, said coliseum manager Alex Tobias. For details, call 873-1040 and 874-3910.

Rambulan semifinals: 200 fights up

TO ACCOMMODATE MORE THAN 200 FIGHTS, NON-STOP ENCOUNTERS WILL be staged today at San Juan Coliseum in the semifinal round of the National Rambulan 8-cock derby starting at 10 a.m. As of yesterday, close to 500 entries were registered, 259 of them listed at SJC alone. With a whopping P10.5 million at stake, participants are definitely fielding their best fighters, said hosts Rodolfo Pineda and Butch Nunez. The breakdown of prizes: champion/s, P6 million; any seven points, P1 million; any six points, P2 million; any five points, P1 million; handler, P350,000 and gaffer, P150,000. "In the worst case scenario, a participant who scored five points can still share in the P1 million prize, so it's really worth the long preparation," said Rambulan executive officer Ed Guevarra. For inquiries, call 725-5369 and 725-6563 or 0917-8041691 (Maricar).



ORCOLLO BACKER: Quezon City majority floor leader councilor Ariel Inton (5th from left), barangay captain Efren Dudal (3rd), barangay captain Jigo Garcia (6th), kagawad Odie Dela Cruz and QC residents give the thumbs-up sign to signify their support for QC-based pool wizard Dennis Orcollo who'll be facing Taiwanese Yang Ching-sun in a race-to-60, 9-ball duel on April 12-14 at the Gateway Mall in Cubao, Quezon City.

NFGB bullstag championship round

NO LESS THAN 70 FIGHTS SIZZLE AT THE ARANETA COLISEUM WHEN THE NFGB National 8-bullstag derby sizzles at the Araneta Coliseum today. Fights start at 5 p.m. A guaranteed prize of P3 million awaits the champions. The total number of entries reached 236. Fifteen entries remained unbeaten with four wins each, led by Superman K-Line and Super Clyde & YCE I of Gen-Gen Arayata and Jess de Vera, EDL Excellence of Ayong Lorenzo and Mayor Jess Nalupta, Cook Cocks PPS of Rolly Banzuela, Anoa Ryan & Herman and Anoa King Arthur of CVBA Breeder of Year Jojo Oquias and Ryan Abrenica. Alex Bauan, Boy Primallon, Elwin Javelosa and Mario Alegria tallied 3.5 points each. In a related development, the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders designated anew Pitgames magazine and Pitgames-Online as lead media partners. For derby videos and photos, visit www.pitgames-online.com and Pitgames magazine.

Villamor rules NCA derby

ACE SPORTSMAN MARIO VILLAMOR WON THE NATIONAL COCKERS ASSOCIation (NCA) Derby last Tuesday at the Pasay City Cockpit. Part of the proceeds will go to the NCA scholarship fund for deserving college students at the University of the Philippines Los Baños and the Miriam Academy for Computer Science. The next derby will be on April 3 at the Pasay City Cockpit. It will be hosted by Pangasinan top cockers Bebot Villar and Edwin Santos. Also taking part are NCA stalwarts former Sen. Ramon Revilla, Manny Pacquiao, Manolo Lopez, Gov. Ito Ynares, Jun Santiago, Edwin Abella, Boy Jiao, chair Rudy Albano, Danding Cojuangco, Fiscal Villanueva, brothers Eddie and Boboy Araneta, Patrick Antonio, brothers Raffy and Mauro Prieto, JV Magsaysay, Baby Asistion, Johnny Jalandoni, Charing Magbuhos, Larry Mendoza, Joey Sarasola. Jun Marasigan and Beboy Uy.

Pacquiao packs a punch, but is Solis solid?

Percy D. Della

COMMENTARY

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORnia—Pray hard, Solar Sports. That Manny Pacquiao's unbeaten opponent at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, on April 14 is a "sleeper" all right.

The kind you have in mind: somebody not scrappy immediately, but becomes so after a few rounds with the Filipino Flash.

Solar, Jorge Solis better deliver.

He better not be a Sergio Caprari grizzled geezers still remember from the days of the original Flash.

Solis better keep his pillow in the locker room. Not at ringside.

Or his face-off with Pacquiao—not the best crafted in the first place—can be a commercial disaster.

Even for someone with deep pockets and with deep-pocket friends, like you, Solar.

It is hard not to think that a business bomb can explode in your face.

Because outside of Mexico, nobody seems to have heard who this guy Solis really is.

He is 32-0-3, with 23 knockouts, but he has not fought anyone of note.

His last two opponents had fewer than 10 fights each. Last summer, he went the distance with a foe with a suspect record of 6-1.

Maybe he is a credible opponent all right, or Bob Arum, will not square him off with a fighter the caliber of Pacquiao.

The news from San Antonio is that Arum is putting his money where his mouth is.

Or is the Yale-trained lawyer turned boxing impresario just playing mind games to hype the event?

According to the San Antonio News-Express, the city's most circulated daily newspaper, Arum is having the Alamodome configured to seat 20,000 for Pacquiao's 2007 debut fight with Solis.

This one is dubbed "Blaze of Glory" for Pacman's defense of his largely ceremonial World Boxing Council international super featherweight title.

When Pacquiao defeated Marco Antonio Barrera at the same venue in 2003, 10,127 were at the Alamodome, the News-Express said.

It wasn't 20,000. But Pacquiao was not the world's most exciting boxer then, either.

Of course, cunning as he is, Arum is serving extra gravy for the pay-per-view offering.

In case the main event does not live up to the price of admission—from $300 for ringside seats to $35 for the nosebleed section and the PPV pass that usually runs a tad under $50.

For starlight effect, Arum's card also boasts Jorge Arce, Brian Viloria and Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. The best fight for Solar's planned 5-minute gap for investment-recouping commercials could be Arce's bout with Cristian Mijares for the latter's WBC super flyweight title.

Drumbeaters of Arum's Top Rank Promotions dub this encounter a Mexican civil war.

Viloria, who seems to lack Hawaiian punch at crunch time, hopes to capitalize early against Edgar Sosa for the vacant WBC light flyweight title.

Chavez Jr. will face a still unnamed foe.

Of course, the upstart Chavez is being thrown into the mix strictly for name recall among die-hard Mexican fans that still adore his dad and are being baited, along with Pacquiao's Filipino base, to do one thing: Remember the Alamodome on April 14.

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Sports Note: It is fiesta time once again in countless places all over the islands. The fiesta is the mother of all peregrinations about hometowns—so much so that natives scattered in the four winds make it a point to return to the old hometown if they can at fiesta time. My birthplace—Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, celebrates its town fiesta on April 13, 14 and 15. A high school reunion of the town's venerable Catholic school, the St. Pius X Institute, precedes the festivities on April 8, Easter Sunday.

QUEZON I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Poctol, Pitogo, Quezon

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID

QUEZELCO I is inviting interested suppliers to apply for qualification and to bid for the supply of electrical materials for the electrification projects of seventeen (17) sitios within the Province of Quezon funded under Department of Energy (DOE) ER No. 1-94.

Prospective bidders have to submit their updated company profile with latest Audited Financial Statements addressed to **Hermes Z. Avillo,** BAC Chiarman, QUEZELCO I, Brgy. Poctol, Pitogo, Quezon. Financial standing of the suppliers will be evaluated as to the capability to accomplish the said undertaking.

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders at the BAC Secretariat upon payment of non-refundable fee of **P2,500.00.**

The pre-qualification and bidding activities are as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Pre-qualification of suppliers/ Issuance of Bid-documents	March 26-April 02, 2007 10:00 AM
2. Pre-bid conference	April 2, 2007 - 1:00 PM
3. Opening and Evaluation of Bid	April 10, 2007 - 1:00 PM
4. Approval of Resolutions of Award/Notice of Award	
5. Issuance of Notice of Award	

Only qualified bidders who were present during the pre-bid conference will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by a bidders bond equivalent to 10% of the bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or demand draft.

QUEZELCO I reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals or declare a failure of bidding anytime prior to award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders.

For more information, please contact BAC secretariat at Tel. No. (042) 318-8156.

(Sgd.) **HERMES Z. AVILLO**
BAC Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) **ENGR. AL MAHATANI V. LEBUMFACIL**
Executive Officer

(PDI - March 23 & 24, 2007)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
MBGPP-07-001

The Makban Geothermal Power Plant Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	PR NUMBER	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	ABC
Date of Bidding: April 17, 2007, 9:00 AM			
A1	MAK-07-054	8 drum Oil, lubrication ISO VG 220 & 5 others	529,921.86
A2	MAK-07-058	181 pair Shoes, safety	498,836.00
A3	MAK-07-051	30 pail Motor Degreaser & 3 others	337,490.00
Date of Bidding: April 24, 2007; 9:00 AM			
B1	MAK-07-036	JO' Supply of labor, materials and supervision for the Renovation of Mak-Ban Warehouse	2,000,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference for Schedule B1 will be held at the Makban Science Centrum on April 12, 2007; 9:00 AM

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Administration Section, Admin/Finance Division, Makban Geothermal Power Plant, Bgy. Bitin, Bay, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per schedule starting March 26, 2007. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the Makban Science Centrum, Bgy. Bitin, Bay, Laguna on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Should there be questions on the bid documents, bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the scheduled Pre-Bid Conference.

Any misrepresentation made in the eligibility statements, or any changes in the situation of the bidder to materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the BAC shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice without any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by it in the preparation of its bid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with ***"IRR of Republic Act 9184"***.

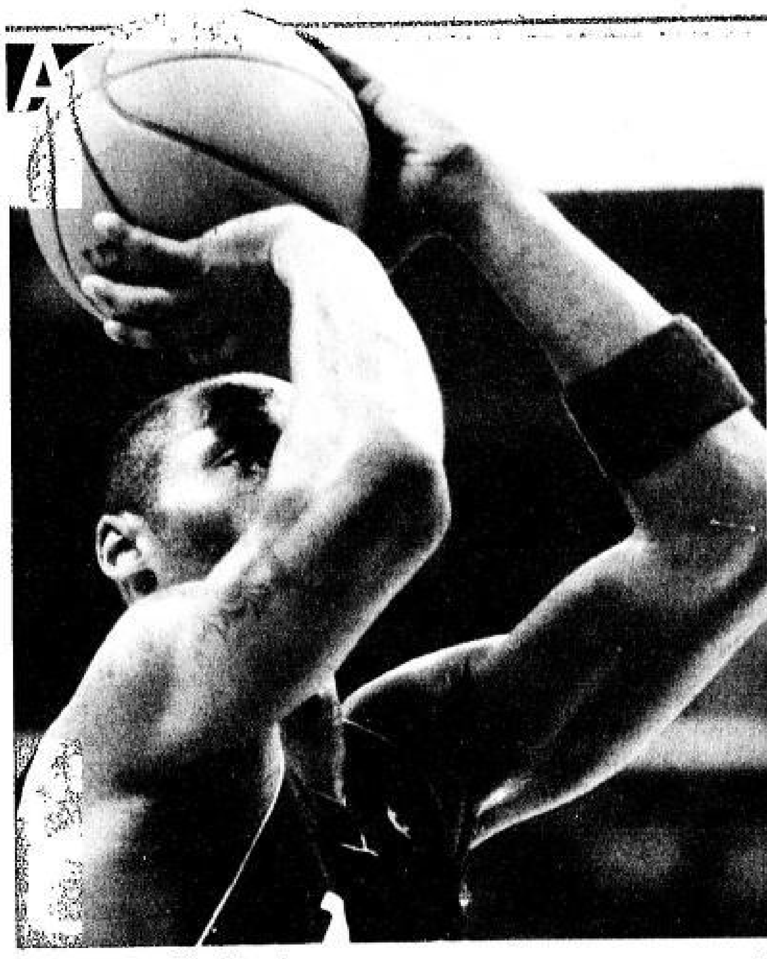
The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One percent (1%), Bank Guarantee – One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond – Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) **M.A. BALLESTERO**
Chairman – BAC, MBGPP-07

(PDI–March 24, 2007)

SPORTS



BRYANT: Smelling blood. AP

Scorching Kobe scores 60

Joins Jordan, Chamberlain, Baylor in elite list

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE—KOBE BRYANT'S National Basketball Association scoring rampage continued Thursday as he poured in 60 points to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 121-119 victory over Memphis.

Bryant became just the fourth NBA player in history to post three straight games of at least 50 points. The others to do it were Elgin Baylor, Michael Jordan and Wilt Chamberlain. Baylor accomplished the feat with the Lakers in the 1962-63 season.

"It's special. Growing up, I idolized all of them, from Wilt to MJ to Elgin and everybody else," Bryant said. "It's a tremendous honor for me to be in that same class with those guys in terms of being in the history books. I don't know what else to say except it's truly a tremendous honor."

Bryant connected on 20-of-37 shots and made 17-of-18 free throws to record his 17th career 50-point performance, tying Hall-of-Famer Baylor for most all-time in Lakers history.

In two wins at the Staples Center this past weekend, Bryant netted 65 points against the Portland Trail Blazers on Friday, then scored 50 against the Minnesota Timberwolves a day later.

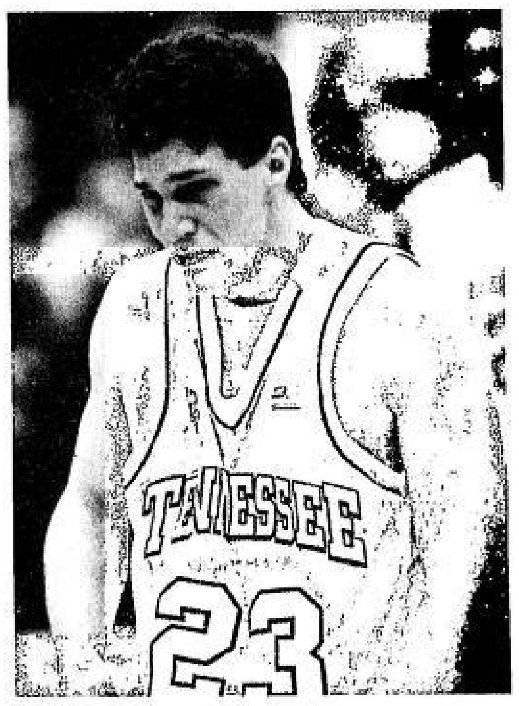
Bryant also added his name to the NBA record books, tying Jordan for second all-time for the most 60-point games with four.

"He's in a league all to himself," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "If he smells blood in the water, he's going to go after you. That's what you admire in Kobe, that he's going to attack and be in that mode and continue to go at a team until you take him out of the ball game." This rivals Bryant's most impressive sustained display of scoring since he poured in at least 40 points in nine straight games during 2002-03 season.

Bryant also owns the second-highest single-game points total in NBA history, with his 81 against Toronto last season, outstripped only by a 100-point performance by Chamberlain in 1962.

In other NBA games, it was Portland 92, New York 86; Houston 91, Detroit 85; Chicago 109, Denver 108; Phoenix 118, Sacramento 100. *AFP*

GAME TODAY (*Basketball TV*)
7 a.m.—Miami vs Indiana
(replays @ 4 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.)



UNIVERSITY of Tennessee's Dane Bradshaw weeps after his team blew a 20-point lead and lost to Ohio State in the NCAA men's South Regional semifinal. REUTERS

Ohio State rallies for dramatic NCAA victory

SAN ANTONIO—RON LEWIS AND MIKE Conley bailed out star Greg Oden to rally Ohio State from 20 points down before halftime and beat Tennessee, 85-84, in the US college basketball championship on Thursday.

While Oden was mired in foul trouble, Lewis scored 25 points, and Conley had nine of his 17 from the foul line, including the winner with 6.5 seconds left to reach the South Regional final.

But Conley missed a second shot, giving Tennessee one last chance. Ramar Smith grabbed the rebound and went all the way to the rim with Conley defending him. They went up together and time expired with his ball in the air.

Then it was Oden to the rescue, swatting the ball into the Volunteers' cheerleaders and dropping back to earth himself with his biggest smile of the night, while Smith planted himself face-down in front of the Tennessee bench.

The Buckeyes (33-3) won their 20th straight game, keeping alive their longest run in the tournament since reaching the Final Four in 1999. They can get there again with a victory on Saturday against Memphis.

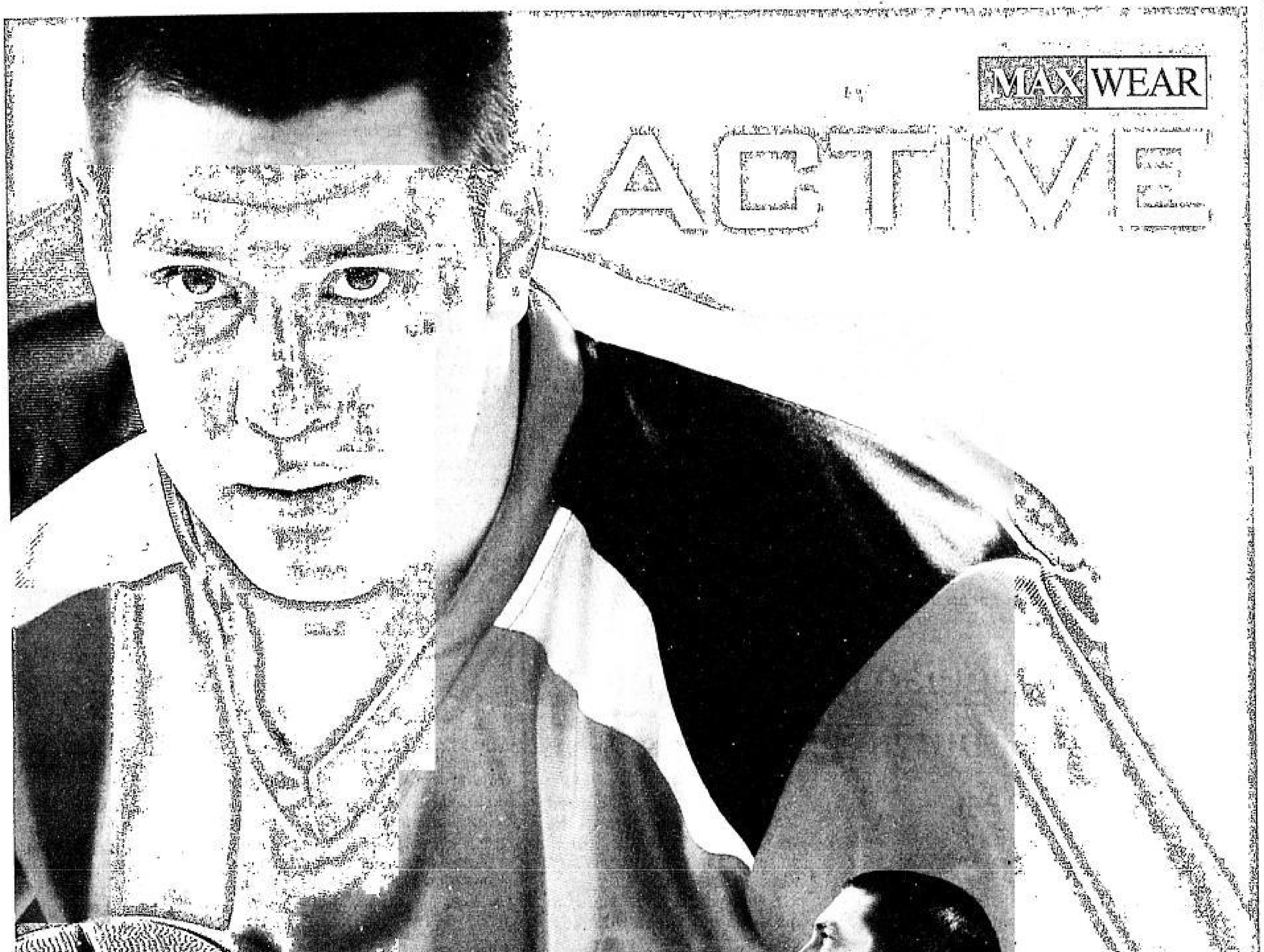
Oden scored only nine points, matching his lowest in 15 games, and set a season-low with three rebounds. He never fouled out, though, needing quick substitutions in the final few minutes to avoid getting disqualified.

Meanwhile, Antonio Anderson made two free throws with 3.1 seconds left to help second-seeded Memphis beat third-seeded Texas A&M, 65-64.

Anderson came in shooting 64 percent from the free throw line and was 1-for-4 when he went to the line after being fouled at the end of a wild sequence in which the Tigers missed three quick shots.

The Tigers have been one of the worst free throw-shooting teams all season. They were so bad from the line that coach John Calipari quit having them shoot in postseason practice and told his players to visualize making them instead.

In other games it was Kansas 61, Southern Illinois 58 and UCLA 64, Pittsburgh 55. *AP*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Filipino consumers remain pessimistic

But BSP notes high confidence level for whole of '07

By Doris C. Dumlao

MORE FILIPINO HOUSEHOLDS ARE PESSIMISTIC about the economy and their own financial conditions, but the general confidence level is rising at least within Metro Manila, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' first-quarter consumer expectations survey.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the institution's first nationwide survey showed the overall confidence index at -33.3 percent for the first three months of this year, but the outlook for the next quarter was less pessimistic with an index of -11.1 percent and was expected to turn positive over a 12-month period.

The confidence index was measured using the difference between the percentage of those who have a favorable view and those who have a negative outlook. A negative index thus showed an unfavorable view.

"Apprehensions about the peace and order situation in the lead-up to the May elections explained in part this development. However, consumers were broadly optimistic that conditions would improve over the next 12 months as the overall index for the Philippines posted a positive 0.8 percent," Tetangco said.

"Respondents from (Metro Manila) were more bullish compared to their counterparts (in the provinces). The reasons cited behind the positive outlook include normalization of the political situation, expectation of improved governance by newly elected officials, better income prospects arising from employment of family members who would graduate from college and higher farm income during the harvest season," Tetangco said.

In the past, the BSP's quarterly survey covered only households within the National Capital Region. The quarterly survey measures the view on the current quarter, the next quarter and the next 12 months.

Based on the latest quarterly survey, the consumer confidence index for the NCR alone, while remaining negative at -23.3 percent, was the highest since the BSP started its poll in the third quarter of 2004.

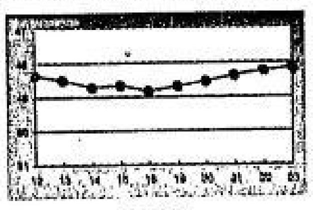
The latest survey was conducted from Jan. 26 to Feb. 16 with a sample size of 2,879 households in Metro Manila and 2,574 households in the provinces. The households interviewed were drawn from the National Statistics Office's master sample list of households.

"Insofar as NCR is concerned, confi-

FILIPINO/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



MARCH

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

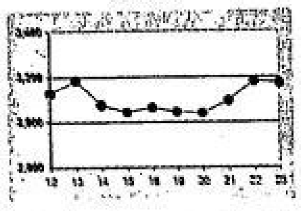
₱ 48.16 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 23, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

MARCH



(See stock market report on Page B3)

Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.26-percent lower yesterday as a lack of leads resulted in mixed trade as some investors opted to take some profits ahead of the weekend, dealers said.

Buying in select blue chips like Ayala

SHARES/ B3

Factory output up 2% in January

PHILIPPINE FACTORY OUTPUT PICKED UP by 2 percent in January from a year ago, reversing the 9.3-percent contraction in December, as manufacturers started beefing up their inventory after the year-long sluggish production last year.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that its monthly integrated survey of selected industries showed an improvement in the volume of production index (VoPI) after year-round decreases in 2006.

Based on the report, 13 of the 20 major sectors posted increases in production, with the following posting double-digit growths: Furniture and fixtures (50.3 percent), nonmetallic mineral products (19.2 percent), basic metals (16.6 percent), paper and paper products (15.8 percent), wood and wood products (15.8 percent) and food manufacturing (10.1 percent).

Compared with the previous month, however, the VoPI dropped by 9.6 percent in January as 13 of the 20 major sectors had lower production.

Double-digit monthly decreases were observed in food manufacturing, publishing and printing, basic metals, wood and wood products and tobacco.

The volume rather than the value of factory output has a more significant impact on employment.

On the other hand, the value of production index (VaPI) for the manufacturing industry recovered at a slower year-on-year rate of 1.8 percent in January 2007 after contracting for four consecutive months. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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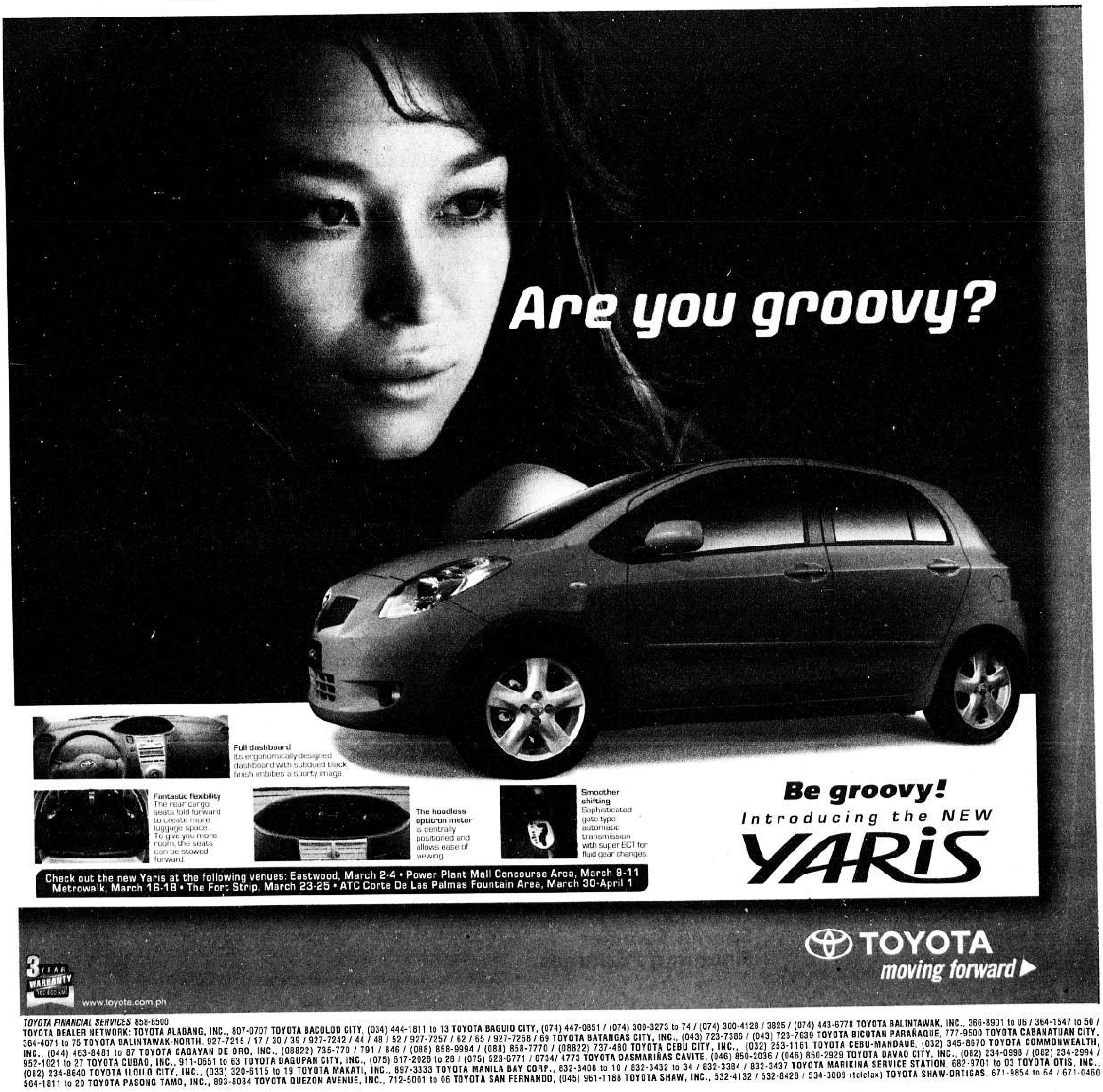
- **Investors drawn** to energy sector like moths to flame /B2
- **Pacific Online** to raise P350M in initial offer /B3



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Filipino consumers ...

From page B1

dence among consumers across different income levels rose as indices on current economic condition, family financial and income situations were generally higher both year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter. It is notable that more respondents belonging to the low and middle income groups have turned optimistic about their own financial situation as the indices on family financial and income conditions improved compared to the year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter levels," Tetangco said.

In areas outside the NCR, respondents from the high income group were the most optimistic about their family financial and income conditions.

Investors drawn to energy sector like moths to flame

By Abigail L. Ho

INDUSTRY REFORMS AND TRANSparent bidding processes have made both local and foreign investors keen on infusing capital into the local energy sector, despite perceptions that the country is one of the most corrupt in the world.

Philippine Independent Power Producers Association (Pippa) president Ernesto Pantangco said a recently released survey by the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) that named the Philippines as the most corrupt in Asia would not deter investors from coming into the country.

In a statement, he said the energy sector remained attractive to both local and foreign investors, mainly due to the continuing reforms in the sector as well as the relatively transparent bidding processes that have been taking place in recent years.

Proof of investor confidence, Pantangco said, was the interest of investors as discriminating as the International Finance Corp. and the Government of Singapore Investment Corp. Pte. Ltd. in the privatization of PNOC Energy Development Corp.

He also cited the sale of Atlanta-based Mirant Corp.'s Philippine assets for $1.3 billion to the Marubeni Corp.-Tokyo Electric Power Co. Inc. as another indication that investors remained bullish over the local energy market.

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. also recently completed back-to-back sales of the 112-megawatt (MW) Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower package, and the 360-MW Magat hydropower plant for $129 million and $530 million, respectively.

"Privatization of state-owned power sector assets by PSALM is a key element of the Philippine government's reform program for the sector," Pantangco said. "We are confident that the energy sector can sustain the momentum and remain one of the brightest spots in the Philippines' economic landscape."

Trade Secretary Peter Favila, who also chairs the Anti-Red Tape Task Force and co-chairs the National Competitiveness Council, had earlier said that the country's poor rating in the PERC survey came as a surprise to him, considering the measures that the government had put in place to combat corruption.

"Corruption is being dealt with," Favila said. "We are surprised we rated poorly and plummeted to the bottom of the PERC survey."

In the 1,476-person PERC survey, the Philippines got the worst mark among the 13 countries and territories that expatriate businessmen were asked to score.

The Philippines replaced Indonesia as the most corrupt country in Asia.

While "disheartened," Favila said the country should be able to recover from that blow next year.

"Hopefully, our initiatives will change the mood of businessmen from negative to positive," he said. "We expect better results (next year)."

Mabuhay Vinyl lays out P565M to expand

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MABUHAY VINYL CORP. IS EMBARKing on a P565-million project to expand its capacity in manufacturing basic and intermediate chemical products in an effort to take advantage of increasing international prices.

The firm's efforts were given a boost as the Board of Investments announced it had approved the granting of perks to the project as well as registering it with a pioneer status.

This means Mabuhay Vinyl is qualified to a tax holiday of up to six years, duty-free importation of capital goods as well as other fiscal and nonfiscal incentives.

According to the BOI, the project merited pioneer status because of the huge amount involved.

Also, the project is qualified for incentives under the RED (Retention, Expansion and Diversification) program included in the 2006 Investment Priorities Plan.

The firm wants to expand the yearly output of its facility in Assumption Heights, Iligan City, by 24,000 metric tons of caustic soda; 50,000 MT of hydrochloric acid; and 5,500 MT of liquid chlorine.

At least 46 direct new jobs plus 117 indirect jobs are expected to be created when the expanded facility starts commercial operation in June 2008.

The proponent—which has been in business for 43 years—is one of the country's leading manufacturers of hydrochloric acid and is the only domestic producer of liquid chlorine and caustic soda.

These chemicals are used in a wide range of household and industrial applications.

In its application with the BOI, Mabuhay Vinyl said the project was also aimed at meeting the increasing domestic demand for chlor-alkali chemicals or those used to produce sodium hydroxide and chlorine.

Further, the project involves the use of the "most modern" ion exchange membrane (IEM) technology called n-BiTAC, which was developed by the Japanese firms Chlorine Engineers Corp. and Tosho Corp.

Mabuhay Vinyl said the technology features "ultra-low" consumption of power, salt and steam, which would enable the company to attain very competitive production costs.

This latest project represents Phase 2 of the firm's expansion plans, with the initial phase having been completed in 2003.

The company started in 1964 as family-run business that was set up through Japanese Reparations as the founder's original business—Guillermo B. Guevara's shoe factory called Mabuhay Rubber Corp.—was completely destroyed during World War II.

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INVITATION TO BID

The Government Service Insurance System ("GSIS"), as it continues to serve its mandate, wishes to invite prospective investors to participate in the sale of its shares in GSIS Family Bank (the "Bank").

Accordingly, all interested bidders ("Investors") are invited to submit bids for the following: Twenty Million One Hundred Fifty Thousand Six (20,150,006) issued common shares and Five Million Forty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Eight (5,048,758) issued preferred shares representing 99.55% of the total issued and outstanding shares of the Bank.

Interested Investors may secure the Request for Bids starting 27 March 2007 at the GSIS Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, Level 7 GSIS Building, Financial Center, Pasay City during office hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 25,000.

A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held on 3 April 2007 at 9:00 am in the GSIS Conference Hall, Level 3, Core G, GSIS Building, Financial Center, Pasay City.

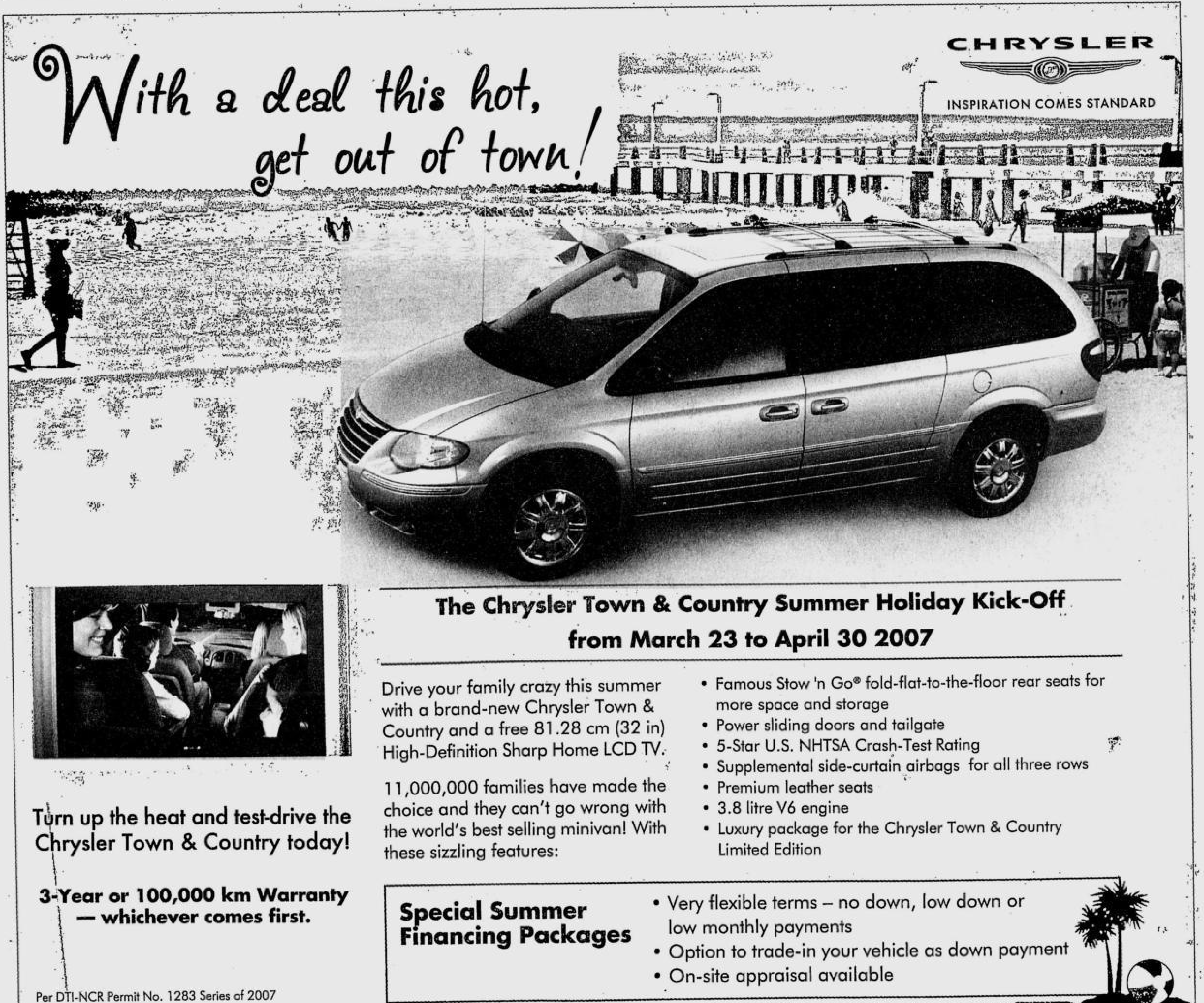
The GSIS hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of the contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Investor/s or any obligation to inform the affected Investor/s of the grounds for the GSIS' action.

For further inquiries, interested Investors may contact:

Atty. Nora M. Saludares
Head, BAC Secretariat
BAC Secretariat Office
Level 7, GSIS Building, Financial Center, Pasay City
Telephone No. 832-18-94 / 891-61-61 loc. 4944

Approved by:

(Original Signed)
OMELITA J. TIANGCO
Executive Vice President &
Chairperson, GSIS Investment Bids & Awards Committee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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 23, 2007)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,600
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	58.5	58.5	58	58	1,273,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	65	66	64.5	65.5	2,606,300
China Banking Corp.	870	870	870	870	3,550
Citystate Savings Bank	20	20	20	20	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.55	3,970,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	103	103	100	100	144,010
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	61.5	62	59.5	62	1,860,100
Philippine National Bank	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	1,000
Phil. Savings Bank	62	62	62	62	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	77	79	77	78.5	525,900
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	257,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	38	38	38	38	10,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	2	2	1.86	1.9	352,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	650	660	650	650	201,900
Ivantage Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	60,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
PNOC Energy Dev. Corp.	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.2	29,271,000
First Gen Corp.	54.5	55.5	54.5	55.5	634,300
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	71.5	71.5	70.5	71	246,100
Manila Electric Co. A	71	71	70	70.5	34,500
Manila Electric Co. B	71.5	71.5	70	70.5	1,173,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.3	786,000
Petron Corp.	4.5	4.55	4.45	4.5	4,610,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	1,170,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.48	1.48	1.44	1.44	571,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25	25	25	25	19,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	53.5	56.5	53	56.5	489,900
Pancake House Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	10,000
RFM Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.48	2.48	85,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	230,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	64	64	64	81,500
San Miguel Corp. B	74.5	74.5	73.5	74	127,600
Alliance Tuna Int'l. Inc.	2.3	2.38	2.26	2.36	3,029,000
Universal Robina Corp.	17.5	17.5	17	17.25	1,274,300
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	10,630,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.8	3,589,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.5	8.7	8.5	8.7	159,000
Republic Cement Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	3,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5	5.1	5	5.1	1,194,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	150,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	3,270,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	10,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	1,098,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	111,600,000
Ayala Corp.	550	555	540	545	706,690
Aisons Cons. Res. Inc.	1.04	1.04	0.92	0.95	10,950,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.2	4,382,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	7.2	7.3	7	7	2,173,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	5,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.45	92,000
APC Group Inc.	0.39	0.41	0.39	0.4	8,670,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	303,500,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.62	1.64	1.56	1.62	15,862,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	10,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	30,000
Pal Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.8	251,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	4.45	4.45	4.25	4.3	272,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.9	9.9	9.8	9.9	17,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.35	3.4	15,969,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	7	7.2	7	7.2	176,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	5	5.1	5	5.1	250,000
F&J Princ.E Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	10,000
House Of Investments Inc.	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	255,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	162,000
Keppel Holdings	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	6,000
Medco Holdings	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.35	400,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	30,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	9.3	9.3	8.9	9.2	944,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	2.36	2.36	2.28	2.34	3,032,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.36	0.3	0.35	64,120,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.72	300,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.32	0.35	0.3	0.33	75,550,000
SM Investments Corp.	367.5	370	362.5	370	124,410
South China Resources Inc.	1.14	1.16	1.12	1.14	980,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.52	1.52	75,000
Vivant Corp.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2	10,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.195	0.195	1,300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	15.5	15.75	15.25	15.75	18,283,100
Belle Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	4,967,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.24	1.26	1.22	1.26	152,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2.1	2	2.1	75,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	400,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	636,000
C & P Homes Inc.	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.55	159,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	42,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.39	0.45	0.36	0.44	81,940,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.24	0.28	0.24	0.28	1,500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.76	0.76	8,590,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.105	0.12	0.105	0.115	60,810,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.68	8,438,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.29	790,000
Interport Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	74,700,000
Interport Res. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	30,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.49	0.5	0.48	0.48	2,430,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.81	0.81	2,150,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	500,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.15	3.2	30,903,000
Metro Pacific Inv. Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	75,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.89	0.89	35,350,000
Polar Property Holdings	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	80,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	18.75	19	18.75	19	9,204,400
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	4,460,000
SM Development Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.75	3.8	1,124,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.25	10.75	11	7,095,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.67	370,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.235	0.25	26,540,000
Zipporah Rlty Hldgs Inc.	0.76	1	0.76	1	90,000
MEDIA					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp.	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.5	77,100
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	18,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.7	1.7	4,589,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1300	1300	1290	1290	33,050
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	7	7	6.8	7	3,541,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2525	2525	2490	2495	98,020
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.25	0.26	38,880,000
Diversified Fin. Network	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	41,000
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	51,000,000
IPVG Corp.	6.4	6.7	6.2	6.6	2,130,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0625	0.065	0.0625	0.065	4,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.6	1.62	327,000
Transpacific Broadband	2.1	2.14	2.1	2.12	61,000
Philweb Corp.	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.046	72,600,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	4.2	4.25	4.2	4.25	126,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.38	1.42	1.38	1.42	302,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	28.5	28.5	27	27.5	6,711,100
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.16	638,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.26	1.2	1.26	8,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.65	3.7	5,559,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.15	3.15	3	3	12,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	1.02	1.08	0.99	1	31,241,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	5,000
iPeople Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	231,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.65	2.75	2.6	2.75	778,000
Paxys Inc.	26.5	28	26.5	28	1,007,900
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	5	5.4	4.9	5.3	1,456,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	5	5.3	5	5.3	560,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	276,100,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	11.25	11.5	11	11.5	12,509,400
Benguet Corp. A	11	11.5	11	11.5	14,500
Geograce Res. Phil. Inc.	1.68	1.74	1.64	1.72	68,029,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	4,040,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	60,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.028	221,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	97,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.02	744,400,000
Philex Mining Corp.	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	10,040,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	21.5	21.75	21	21.5	158,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.72	0.74	0.72	0.74	1,450,000
Vulcan Ind'l	1.24	1.26	1.22	1.26	2,918,000
OIL					
Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.54	0.58	0.53	0.56	40,880,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	482,100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	189,800,000
The Philodrill Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	679,800,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	12,000
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	119	119	118	118	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	11	11	11	11	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	11	11	11	11	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	11	11	11	11	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	11	11	11	11	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	11	11	11	11	1,800
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	25	25	25	25	564,800
Metro Pac. Inv.- Warrants	3.4	3.4	3.25	3.25	23,000

Shares close lower

From page B1

Corp. and SM Investments helped limit the downturn, they added.

The composite index fell 8.27 points to 3,170.05 after trading between 3,141.55 and 3,183.30. The broader all-share index shed 1.44 points to 2,038.09.

Despite key indices finishing lower, gainers beat losers 62 to 51, with 51 stocks unchanged.

Volume was 5.2 billion shares worth P3.5 billion. *AFP*

Pacific Online to raise ₱350M in initial offer

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

LOTTERY MACHINE SUPPLIER Pacific Online Systems Corp. (POSC) is hoping to raise P353 million from its planned offer of new and old shares at the Philippine Stock Exchange in April.

Proceeds from the primary offer of 11.8 million shares, worth P104.8 million, will help oil the roll out of new terminals, fund upgrades in lottery infrastructure, including the installation of a data center, and enhance the software used for games, according to Willy Ocier of Belle Corp., one of Pacific Online's shareholders.

Based on documents it filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, POSC pegged its initial public offer price at P8.88 a share.

The Chinese believe that the number 8 is a lucky number because, in their language, it sounds like the word for wealth.

Secondary shareholders, who will offer the balance of 28 million shares, are seen to fetch a total of P248.6 million.

Selling shareholders are Abacus Global Technovisions Inc. and Belle Group, which consist of leisure homes developer Belle Corp. and Subco Technology Inc.

The Belle Group will trim its stake to 20.35 percent after the IPO, from 30.1 percent, while Abacus Global will reduce its stake to 17.4 percent from 25.8 percent.

Asian Alliance Investments Corp. and BDO Capital & Investment Corp. will manage the offer.

An investor's briefing is set on March 27, while the offer period will be from March 28 to April 3.

The listing date—when shares may be traded at the stock exchange—is set on April 12.

According to some analysts, POSC's offer looks attractive, noting that the gaming industry is a P100-billion market.

Pacific Online is the equipment lessor of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office for the Visayas and Mindanao.

POSC reported that gross revenues for 2006 exceeded P400 million, up from P340 million in 2005.

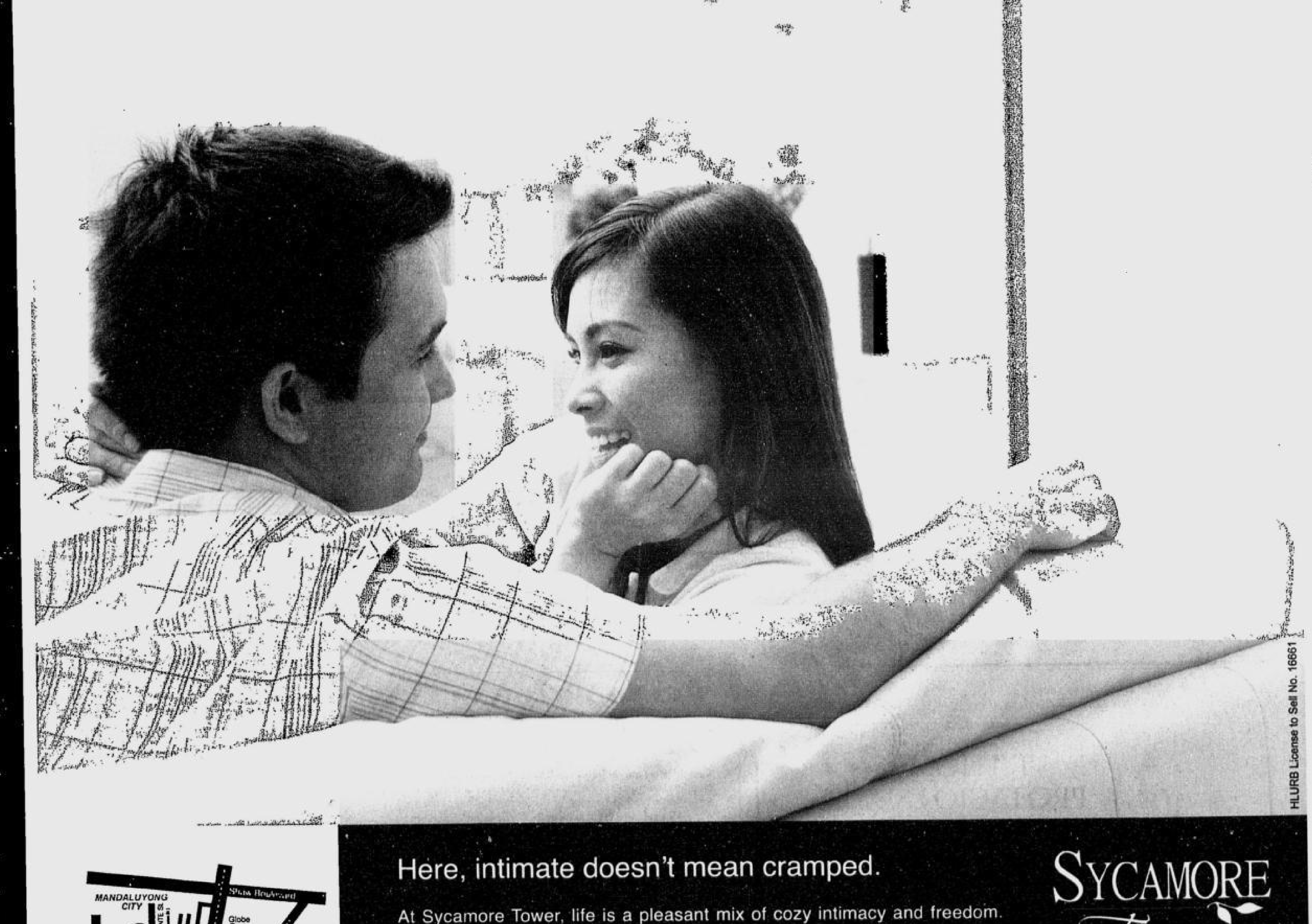
CURRENCIES

March 23, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.750019	1.000000	48.2610
Japan	Yen	0.006353	0.008470	0.4088
United Kingdom	Pound	1.473787	1.965000	94.8329
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.096044	0.128056	6.1801
Switzerland	Franc	0.617757	0.823655	39.7504
Canada	Dollar	0.648412	0.864528	41.7230
Singapore	Dollar	0.493758	0.658328	31.7716
Australia	Dollar	0.605636	0.807494	38.9705
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.989492	2.652590	128.0166
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.199994	0.266652	12.8689
Brunei	Dollar	0.492138	0.656168	31.6673
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000110	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.023586	0.031447	1.5177
UAE	Dirham	0.204265	0.272346	13.1437
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.333300	64.3464
Korea	Won	0.000800	0.001067	0.0515
China	Yuan**	0.097070	0.129423	6.2461
Argentina	Peso	0.242137	0.322841	15.5806
Brazil	Real	0.364618	0.486145	23.4618
Denmark	Kroner	0.134260	0.179009	8.6392
India	Rupee	0.017178	0.022904	1.1054
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216455	0.288600	13.9281
Mexico	New Peso	0.068048	0.090728	4.3786
New Zealand	Dollar	0.535307	0.713725	34.4451
South Africa	Rand	0.104330	0.139103	6.7132
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022738	0.030316	1.4631

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY Time—March 22, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of March 22, 2007



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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
PHILN KO DREAM COMPUTER INC. 10 Saniware Compd., 20 Evangelista, Santolan, Pasig City	Kwang Sik Choi	Treasurer
SYSTEM RENOVATION, INC. Unit 2703 PBcom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Katsuya Takakura	Manager
KOREAN AIRLINES CO., LTD. 124 G/F LPL Plaza Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Min Soo Jang	Assistant Traffic Manager
ECI CREATIVE COMMUNICATION TRAININGS, INC. Rm. 205 Executive Center Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Kyunghan Yun	Student Coordinator
DALCHE REAL TRADING CO. # 625 Fundidor St., Binondo, Manila	Meixiu Zhang	Sales Manager
UNILEVER PHILIPPINES, INC. 1351 U.N. Ave., Manila	Huong Dang Thien Tran	Brand Innovation Manager-Dove Asia
UNILEVER PHILIPPINES, INC. 1351 U.N. Ave., Manila	Alessandro Lunelli	Regional Brand Innovation Manager-Axe Asia
SURE VARIETY TRADING INC. Rm. 602 Juliana Bldg., # 907 Severino Reyes St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Huopo Yao	Technical Consultant
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Taku Kariya	Piping Engineer
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Yasunori Nozoe	Project Engineer
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Akihiko Yamamoto	Project Engineer
VISION-X, INC. 16/F RCBC Tower 2, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Reyda Yogrina Lembong	Bahasa Indonesian/ English Speaking Call Center Agent
APAC CUSTOMER SERVICES, INC. 4/F Plaza C, Northgate Cyberzone, Filinvest Corp. City Alabang, Muntinlupa City	David John Schmeckpeper	IT Manager
LITYAN (PHILIPPINES) INC. 4/F RFM Corporate Center, Pioneer cor. Sheridan Sts., Mandaluyong City	Adnan Bin M. Yusoff	Vice President-Technical Operations
DUZON E&H IN PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 11/F Tower 2, Insular Bldg., Filinvest, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Hyun Oh	Class Manager
DUZON E&H IN PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 11/F Tower 2, Insular Bldg., Filinvest, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Tea Hun Lee	Class Manager
PHILIPPINE SHENGSHENG MINING CORPORATION Unit 1702 Tycoon Center, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Yan Lai	Executive Assistant
PHILIPPINE SHENGSHENG MINING CORPORATION Unit 1702 Tycoon Center, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Jintian Shi	Computer Engineer
SUMITOMO CORPORATION Line 1 Capacity Expansion Project Office, LRTA Cmpd., 191 Pasay City	Tetsuo Fukushima	Electrical Supervisor

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-5920.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI – March 24, 2007)

THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

IS IN NEED OF:

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY INSPECTORS (ICASI)

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's Degree in any Engineering Course. Psychology, ECE and IT related course is an advantage.
- With Professional License or Career Service Professional Eligibility;
- FEMALE, 5'4" in height, between 21 to 25 years old;
- Possesses excellent interpersonal, presentation and English communication skills both written and verbal.
- Highly proficient in MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Highly organized and systematic.

Qualified applicants will be trained by ICAO accredited Training Center(s) and/or recognized AVSEC Training Institution in the Philippines. Successful applicants shall oversee all aviation security and quality control tasks as required by the ASP and NCASP to meet and sustain ICAO Annex 17 Standard 3.4.7 at the airport level.

Qualified applicants are invited to submit personally the following:

1. Resume / Personal Data Sheet (PDS);
2. Recent 2x2 picture;
3. Latest Community Tax Certificate;
4. Photocopy of Diploma or Transcript of Records;
5. Photocopy of Certificate of training / seminars attended;
6. Certificate of Eligibility Rating (CSC), if any;
7. NBI Clearance.

Bring original copy of item nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7 for authentication to:

LBP SERVICE CORPORATION
Unit C & D, 21/F Petron Megaplaza Building
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Trunkline: (02) 843-2077 locals 213 / 214

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION IS ON MARCH 30, 2007

Invitation for Bid

Republic of the Philippines
ARMM SOCIAL FUND PROJECT
Regional Strategic Infrastructure (SRI) Component:
Loan No. 7153PH

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the World Bank toward the cost of ARMM Social Fund Project (ASFP), and it intends to apply part or the whole of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the contract for Regional Strategic Infrastructure (SRI) Component;
2. The ARMM Social Fund Project now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the project described below :
   Subproject Title : **Construction of Regional Teachers Training Center**
   Subproject Code : **SRI –MAG-TCF-001**
   Location : **Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao**
   Completion of the works required : **312 Calendar days.**
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Subject to exceptions stated in these Bidding Documents, only Bids from Bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification;
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *ASFP-Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00AM to 5:00PM on *March 26 to April 4, 2007;*
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Five Thousand (PHP 5,000.00) Pesos . The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on *March 26 to April 4, 2007;*
6. The *ASFP-BAC* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Bidders at *4th floor CYMCI Building (Land Bank), Don Rufino Alonzo Street, Cotabato City; on April 12, 2007*, 10:00 AM.
7. Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before *May 7, 2007.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check , Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit in an amount of at least one percent (1%) of his total bid price or a Bank Guarantee in an amount of one and a half percent (1.5%) of his total bid price.* Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on *May 7, 2007*, 10:00AM, at, *4th floor CYMCI Building (Land Bank), Don Rufino Alonzo Street, Cotabato City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 10:00AM on May 7, 2007;
8. The *ARMM Social Fund Project-Bids and Awards Committee (ASF-BAC)* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ARMM Social Fund Project
(Sgd.) ATTY. MUSTAPHA A. SAMBOLAWAN
Project Manager
4th floor CYM Building(LandBank), Don Rufino Alonzo Street, Cotabato City.
Tele-Fax (064) 421-1128
E-mail:asfp@pldtdsl.net
Website: asfp.org.ph

(Sgd.) ENGR. GUIALOSON A. MAMOGKAT, MPS
BAC Chairman

(PDI – March 24 & 25, 2007)

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RESOURCE & RESEARCH STAFF
MONTHLY SALARY OF P10,000.00 – P 15,000.00

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION LETTER AND RESUME TO:

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DEPUTY TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
MENO GAIA CO., LTD.
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118 Rada St., Legaspi Village
Makati City

ABLE ADVERTISING AGENCY
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(082) 228.60.20
able.ad.agency@gmail.com

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- TRAINOR
  ** must be familiar with office procedures and different electronic gadgets (cellphone, MP3, etc)*
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- TECHNICAL & NON-TECHNICAL CSR
- SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST
- SALES LADY

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OR E-mail your resumé with 2x2 picture at hug.info@gmail.com or hug_info@yahoo.com

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Tel# 889-7956

National Food Authority
Regional Office No. 8
Pawing Palo, Leyte

RO8-2007-01
Public Bidding for one (1) set Steel Butler Silo located at NFA Alangalang Grains Center

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF ONE (1) SET 12 UNITS BUTLER SILOS "AS IS WHERE IS"

The National Food Authority, Region 8, through its Disposal Committee (BAC), will conduct public bidding for the Sale of One (1) Set 12-units Butler Silos located at NFA Warehouse Compound, Alangalang, Leyte.

Brief Description of the Asset : One (1) set 12-units Steel Butler silos having a total estimated capacity of 60,000 bags of 50 kg palay, equipped with conveying system, storage tanks, panel board and control system.

Minimum Bid Price (MBP) : FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P 470,000.00)

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	ADDRESS	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of Bid form	NFA Regional Office 8 Conference Room	March 26-30, 2007	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
2. Pre-bid Conference	NFA Regional Office 8 Conference Room	April 13, 2007	9:00 am
3. Submission & Opening of Bids	NFA Regional Office 8 Conference Room	April 20, 2007	9:00 am

Bid Forms will be available only to interested parties upon presentation of Letter of Intent bearing the correct name that will participate in the bidding and upon payment of a non-refundable, non-transferrable bidding fee in the amount of TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00) to the cashier of NFA Regional Office 8. Representatives of Bidder purchasing the Bid Form must be equipped with a Special Power of Attorney to purchase the documents and in behalf of the Bidder.

Interested bidder/buyer can inspect the described asset during office hours at said location. (NFA Alangalang Grains Center).

For further inquiries, interested parties may see or call Ms. Lydia P. Cabangangan at the 2nd Floor, NFA Regional Office No. 8 Pawing Palo, Leyte with telephone nos. 053-323-3075 / 053-323-3084.

NFA Region 8 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The NFA Region 8 reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Bidders.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO J. ADORABLE**
Assistant Regional Manager /
Chairman, RBAC

(PDI--March 24, 2007)

NATIONAL **CLASSIFIEDS**
The Widest Read Classifieds

More Classified Ads:

Social Security System A4
Quezon Electric A25
National Power Corporation A25

OBITUARIES

"One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek:
To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life."
-Psalm 27:4

T. THOMAS PROTACIO LAUREL

"Tommy"

(of Las Vegas, USA and Pasay City)
UES Class '65, UP Prep Class '69, UP Class '73

Tommy joined his Creator last March 12, 2007 and is now with **Daddy Ayo** and **Mommy Ereng**. A brilliant Economist, Writer, radio talk show Host and Scholar, he is survived by his loving wife **Gloria**, son **James** and siblings **Noly, Jojo, Imay** and **Jomar**.

His remains will lie in state at the Magallanes Memorial Chapels, Makati City on March 25 and 26, 2007.

Interment will be on March 27, 2007 at the Pasay City Cemetery (Aurora Blvd. Pasay), after the 8:30 am chapel service at IDKH Tramo, Pasay.

BELEN BOTOR CUEVAS

of Tuy, Batangas & San Juan, Metro Manila
Peacefully joined our Lord on March 22, 2007 at the age of 84.

Her children
Conchita (+) and Narciso Lorilla, Godofredo and Lucila Cuevas, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Genesis Funeral Homes, Santolan, San Juan.

Interment will be on Monday, March 22, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the San Juan Cemetery.

"God has you in His keeping; We have you in our hearts"

PAOLO JOSE "PJ" QUITZON CABALLERO

Lagro Subdv., Novaliches, Quezon City
November 06, 1982 – March 20, 2007

His loving parents, **TONY** and **ESTER**; sister **ATE TIN**, brothers **KUYA TON** and **MARK**, his nephew **ZACH**, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends fervently pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Ave., Q.C. Cremation will be on Sunday, March 25, 2007, 9:00 a.m. at Loyola Memorial Cemetery, Marikina, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Death Notice

VIRGILIO R. GARCIA

Joined his Creator on March 15, 2007 at the age of 66.

His body lies in state at their residence, 1050 F. Yuseco St., Tondo, Manila.

Interment today, March 24, 2007 at 9:00 am at the Manila North Cemetery.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

2 Corinthians 5:4-5

New hope for patients with most severe type of heart attack

By Charles E. Buban

THERE ARE AN ESTImated 10 million individuals who suffer from heart attack in the world every year. Of these, 4 million will be diagnosed to have a completely blocked coronary artery—a particularly dangerous form of heart attack—cardiologists refer to as ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction or Stemi.

These blockages are caused by clot formation in the arteries.

A patient diagnosed with Stemi will most likely be required to take clot-busting medications or angioplasty, a procedure where a tiny balloon is inserted into the blocked blood vessel and expanded to break up the blockage.

Of those receiving treatment with clot-busting medications, 20 to 25 percent will still have a blocked artery and are at continued risk of death from a heart attack.

Another use

Recently, drug regulators around the world have approved another use for the drug clopidogrel bisulfate (Plavix), this time for patients who have had Stemi and are not going to have coronary artery repair (like angioplasty).

Clopidogrel was originally approved to decrease platelet function in people who suffer from acute coronary syndrome (platelets are the sticky blood cells that help form a clot and can contribute to blocked coronary arteries).

"In Stemi patients, the drug was found to prevent subsequent blockage in the already damaged heart vessel, which could lead to more heart attacks, stroke and possibly death," explained Dr. Dante Morales, a noted cardiologist who also serves as medical director of the Manila Doctors Hospital.

Two studies

Two studies support the effectiveness of the clopidogrel in treating Stemi heart attack patients.

In Clopidogrel and Metoprolol in Myocardial Infarction Trial (Commit), a collaboration between researchers in China and at England's Oxford University (involving 46,000 patients), giving clopidogrel with aspirin alone cut the death rate by 7 percent, potentially preventing 5,000 deaths and 5,000 life-threatening heart crises for every million patients treated.

The findings in Commit in China are supported by the results of the Clopidogrel as Adjunctive Reperfusion Therapy (Clarity) study that involves 3,500 patients undergoing thrombolysis for Stemi heart attacks.

In Clarity, patients who got the four-drug combination within 12 hours of a heart attack had a 36 percent lower risk of death, a second heart attack or a new artery blockage than patients given just a clot-buster, aspirin and heparin.

Important contribution

Dr. Donato Marañon, another noted cardiologist from the Medical City and Philippine General Hospital, added that the findings from these studies—if implemented appropriately widely—would make an important contribution to saving lives and reducing disability.

"What we are seeing here is a very large opportunity to improve patient care," the doctor said.

Clopidogrel is manufactured by Sanofi-Aventis, the world's third largest pharmaceutical company, ranking No. 1 in Europe.

Are cola drinks safe and healthy?

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

JUST WHEN WE THOUGHT IT WAS safe to drink colas, particularly the low-calorie or diet colas, some researchers tell us they're not too sure if that were so. One study even shows that colas may be associated with high blood pressure more than coffee—at least for women cola drinkers. Another study says it might be associated with brittle bones making post-menopausal women at risk for osteoporosis.

Scientific data data from the two large Nurses Health studies—which tracked down the medical history of more than 155,000 women for 12 years—puzzled researchers with the finding that women who drank even just one caffeinated cola drink every day had a slightly higher risk of high blood pressure. This risk increased progressively with more cola intake daily, as reported by lead resarcher Wolfgang C. Winkelmayer, MD, ScD, of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard University in Boston.

Lower bone density

In another study, researcher Katherine L. Tucker, PhD, of Boston's Tufts University, reported that drinking three or more cola soft drinks a day was associated with lower bone density. Results were similar for diet colas. This potentially harmful effect was less for decaffeinated cola.

This is the first time that a well-designed and robust scientific study has shown a strong link between high blood pressure and caffeinated cola consumption. The association between consumption of cola beverages and increased blood pressure was found with either regular or diet cola. The colas evaluated in the study included Coke, Pepsi and other dark-colored sodas.

"The finding was consistent, both for younger and older women. We were very surprised," says Dr. Winkelmayer whose study was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association or Jama.

To ensure the validity of the risk association, the researchers made all efforts to compare only women matched for age, weight, alcohol use, previous history of high blood pressure, use of birth control pills, physical activity, smoking, and intake of other classes of beverages. These are called confounding variables and since these were properly matched, the only variable left was intake of caffeinated cola drinks. The direct progressive association also indicates the likelihood of the risk association with cola drinks.

Salient findings

According to the Winkelmayer report, the following were the salient findings:

- Women who drank one can of cola a day increased their high blood pressure risk by 9 percent in the first Nurses Health Study and by 13 percent in the second Nurses Health Study.
- Women who drank two to three cans of cola a day had an 11 percent higher risk in the first study and a 24 percent higher risk in the second study.
- Women who drank four or more cans of cola a day had a 44 percent higher risk in the first study and a 28 percent higher risk in the second study.

Compared with women who drank less than a can of diet cola a day:

- Women who drank one can of diet cola a day increased their high blood pressure percent in the second Nurses Health Study.
- Women who drank two to three cans of diet cola a day had a 6 percent higher risk in the first study and a 9 percent higher risk in the second study.
- Women who drank four or more cans of cola a day had a 16 percent higher risk in the first study and a 19 percent higher risk in the second study.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

Identify biological mechanism

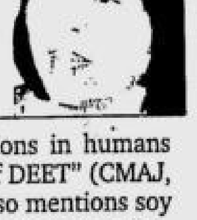
What could be the ingredient in colas that may elevate BP? It could not be the caffeine, says Dr. Winkelmayer. In the same study, no such association was associated with coffee drinking. (Conflicting data however was explained in this column last week—"Coffee debate still percolating.")

"If cola drinking is, in fact, a cause of high blood pressure, it would be important to identify the biological mechanism that makes this happen. We need to understand what it is that creates this link. This agent needs to be identified," Dr. Winkelmayer explains.

The current scientific data are strongly suggestive but in no way are they conclusive. The cola manufacturers should take it upon themselves to fund further researches by credible investigators which can either clear or implicate their respective products. They should not leave the burden of proof on the consuming public to settle this issue. They should allocate part of their huge profits for researches on the safety concerns of their products. At least, for the sake of 5- and 10-year olds who, at such an early age, have become addicted to colas.

How safe are insect repellents? Part 2

EUREKA!



Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST WEEK, WE LOOKED AT A SPIRITED exchange between two readers: Dr. Virge Saldajeno and A. Fernandez, regarding the safety of DEET. Both readers cited sources to support their positions.

Let us conclude their discussion this week.

Least toxic alternative

A. Fernandez replies to Dr. Saldajeno:

Thank you for your response and the links that you provided. I am aware of the differing opinions regarding the use of chemical repellents in the public health realm. The Environmental Protection Agency itself does not exactly have a sterling reputation in the American environmental community, since some of its policies have been unduly influenced by politics over the years.

I appreciate your position regarding the use of "potentially toxic chemicals," but as a parent, I would choose the least toxic alternative. R.D. Nevin of Lockwood Clinic, Ontario, Canada, in response to Koren and his team (Canadian Medical Association Journal, CMAJ, Aug. 5, 2003) cautions that there are "no long-term controlled trials measuring neurological functions in humans following dermal use of DEET" (CMAJ, Jan. 6, 2004). Nevin also mentions soy bean oil called "Bite Blocker" as protection against mosquitoes. Please also look at Missing Info on DEET by J.I. Moss of the University of Florida who found synergism between DEET and hydrolytic enzyme inhibitors (CMAJ, Jan. 14, 2004).

The point I am trying to make is that there is a need to adhere to the precautionary principle when there are no long-term studies regarding adverse effects. This, of course, is one of the numerous areas begging for research in tropical countries like ours. In the long run, what is the possibility of finding herbal or nontoxic solutions to the mosquito problem? In the short term, how about a public health dialogue with the purveyors of Off, alerting them to the availability of soy bean oil?

I appreciate as well your declaration of transparency. As you know, too many research findings have been tainted by disclosure of ties with vested interests.

Let the patient decide

Dr. Saldajeno concludes:

I absolutely agree with the vigilance you espouse. That is why, in nonemergent situations, responsible physicians will discuss the potential of adverse reactions versus the expected benefit of an intervention (be that a surgical procedure, the use of a drug, or in this case, the use of DEET), as well as alternatives with a patient. We let the patient decide what option to take. Obviously, you are well-read, and you are in a better position than many people, who cannot or will not engage a doctor in this discussion. I wish I had more patients' parents like you!

As for me, intensive and continuous public education directed at the elimination of potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes, and the use of non-chemical barriers (such as screens), are in many ways better than spraying insecticide and using DEET.

My own experience

After evaluating the two readers' positions, where do I stand on this matter? I appreciate and believe that both have valid points, and indeed, in the original article, I stressed the importance of clean surroundings in combating this disease. Aside from environmental vigilance, my family has tried all the chemical alternatives. While we may prefer citronella (we also want to avoid DEET), the strong odor of this oil (and other alternatives) triggers our child's asthma. We have no alternative. Before he goes to school, our child puts a thin layer of chemical repellent on his clothes, his hair and exposed parts of his arm. He wears long pants, of course. Our child has developed small rashes on his arms (though we cannot be sure that they are related to the use of DEET). Weighed against the choice of being bitten, we have decided to choose the repellent. Both my readers are right: we need prompt research on this matter, since dengue will probably afflict us for some time to come.

***

Queena N. Lee-Chua is a professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. Contact her at blessbook@yahoo.com.

Coloring failure

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE, MY INTROductory biology classes were conducted in large auditoriums to accommodate the hundreds of students—no few of whom were pre-med—who had registered for the lecture courses. After the first exam of each semester however, the classes would shrink dramatically as students received their graded papers, considered the likelihood of their test scores improving against the final grades that would show up on their transcripts, and chose to drop the class or classes (and maybe even the major itself) to avoid instant rejection by the medical school of their (sometimes future) choice.

It's likely that for several students, the decision to drop a class was made as soon as they saw the red ink on the exam pages. The more red marks, we learned early on in school, the more mistakes, and enough of those mean failure. According to psychologist Andrew Elliot and his colleagues from the University of Rochester and the University of Munich, associations like this between certain colors and concepts are taught from an early age and become unconscious influences in people's lives.

Different meanings

Prior studies have followed similar lines, suggesting that colors have different meanings in various situations. For example, athletes who wear black uniforms observed and were found to act more aggressively than those wearing other colors. Despite its connotations in other contexts, Elliot and his colleagues studied the specific effect of seeing red prior to measuring performance on standardized tests. The work appears in the February issue of the Journal of Experimental Psychology: General.

In separate experiments, several college students took part in trials where they had to either solve anagrams or math problems, or match the correct word analogies within specified time periods. In the test involving anagrams, for example, each participant was assigned a number, which appeared on every page inside the test booklet in red, green or black ink. (The color green was chosen to complement red, while black, white and gray were designated neutral colors.) When the test books were collected and the results scored, those who had red numbers were found to have gotten much lower test scores than those who had green or black numbers.

In similar fashion, the analogy test booklets had the word "Analogies" printed in black ink within either a red, green or white box on the inside cover page. Again, once the tests had been scored, the participants who'd worked with the red-inked booklets had fewer correct answers than the others.

Based on these results, and curious to explore the extent of the color red's influence, Elliot et al. gave the same groups of participants from the previous tests some analogies of varying degrees of difficulty to solve. They hypothesized that the recipients of the red-inked booklets would select a greater number of the easy analogies than the green or gray ink recipients. Their hypothesis was proved correct, though most of the participants chose the easy questions.

Using different color pen

Elliot et al. theorized that while seeing red on the test papers was supposed to give the students incentive to do better next time, in actuality the color distracted and stressed them, which in turn affected their performance. If this is true, then perhaps teachers and test graders should consider using a different color pen when grading tests.

Still, red's successor is not so easily designated. Black and blue inks are out because test-takers generally use these and any corrections or notes might not be detected. Pastels are hard to see. Orange, purple, or green inks—should they be somber or neon-bright?—are possible candidates, although it's not clear that any can seriously denote a failing grade. For that matter, should there be different colors to note a "Pass" or "Fail"? Share your thoughts—what ink color/s would you like to see on/use for marking test papers and why?

***

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Homelite: The Liter Way to Own a Home
Only at Manhattan Garden City

Are you the proud half of a young couple that's dreaming of owning a home pretty soon. **Megaworld Corporation** and **Security Bank**'s partnership can make your dream real!

The living area of Manhattan Garden City's 2-bedroom unit basks in contemporary European elegance.

Manhattan Garden City, which is strategically located at the Araneta Center and boasts of direct connection to the LRT and MRT, is a pilot project of Megaworld for Homelite. As a homebuyer, you can take advantage of the lowest interest rate ever -- 5.50% annually for a five-year loan term at no down payment. "Couples that have a strong cash flow can take advantage of this. They'll save heavily on interest paymnets," noted Megaworld Central Properties Inc. President Anthony Charlemagne Yu.

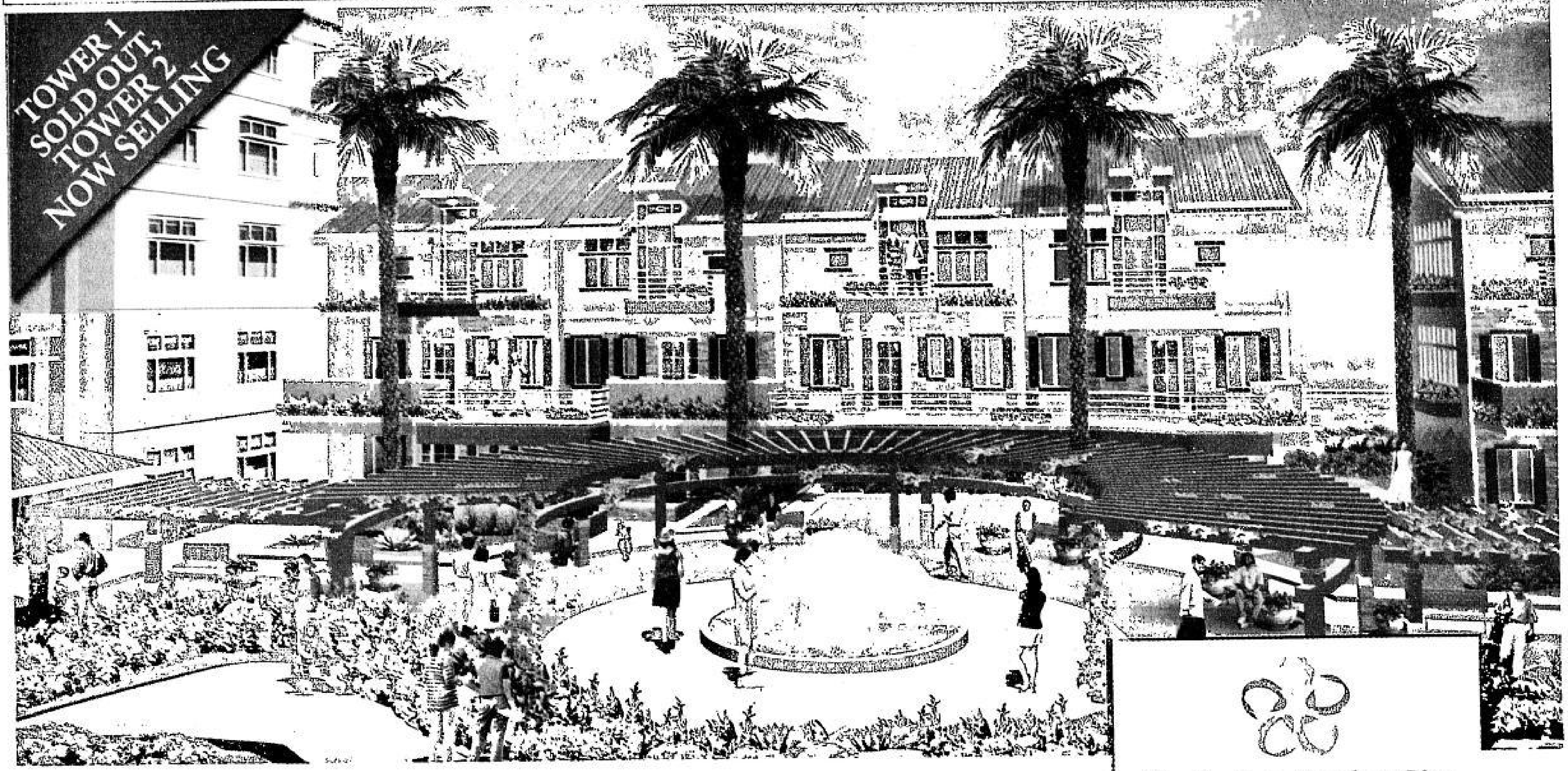
An ideal alternative is to stretch the home loan to 10, 15 or even 25 years to pay, with affordable monthly payments. The rates are also very attractive: from 8.50% to 11.00% annually and can be fixed for as long as 25 years. "Our new 53.50-square meter 2-bedroom corner unit with balcony comes out at a very affordable P25,650 monthly. It's 25 years to pay," Yu added.

Many young couples check out the Manhattan Garden City 2-bedroom model unit everyday at the third level of Gateway Mall.

Interested? Then you better check out the 2-bedroom model unit soon at the Manhattan Garden City showroom at the 3rd level of Gateway Mall. Its contemporary European motif will give you ideas on how to live the luxurious life you've always wanted. Or call 810-3333 or email inquire@themanhattangardencity.com for a viewing appointment.

Homelite makes owning this 2-bedroom unit with balcony very affordable.

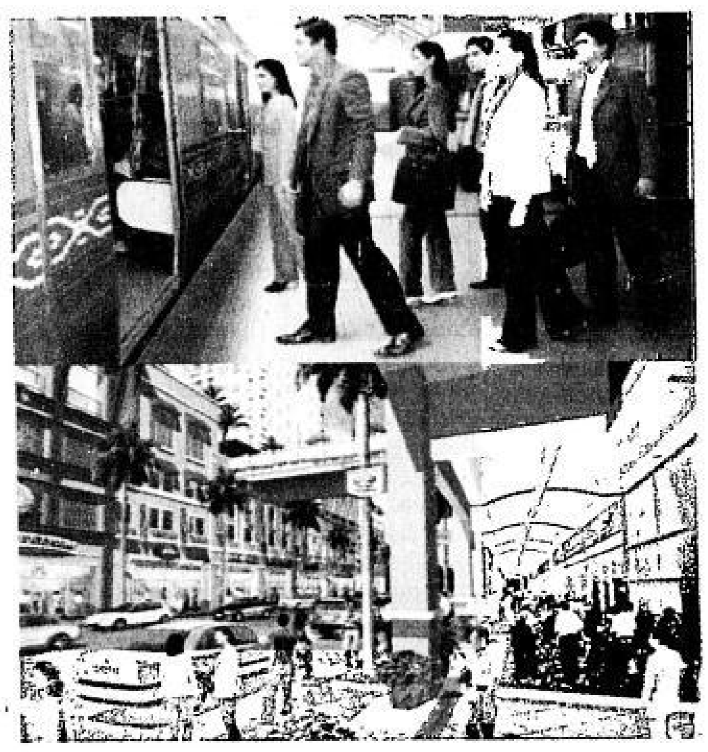
ADVT.



Manhattan Garden City
AT THE ARANETA CENTER

A Matchless Location at the Metro's Center.

Go from home to the heart of the action in no time. At Manhattan Parkway, the first phase of Manhattan Garden City, enjoy the benefits of living in the country's first-ever transit-oriented development. Experience the freedom to go places with utmost ease via the LRT-2 and MRT-3. And reach the north, east, west and south sides of Metro Manila in one go. What's more, be a walk away from the Araneta Center and its shops, offices, restaurants and entertainment hubs.



Surrounded by the city's key destinations.

Your Parkway home is encircled by everything the city has to offer. And you're just a train ride away from it all. Walk down an exclusive **729-meter-long garden footbridge** four stories above street level. Take in its park-like scenery. And arrive at the LRT-2 and MRT-3 stations safely and without the hassles of traffic.

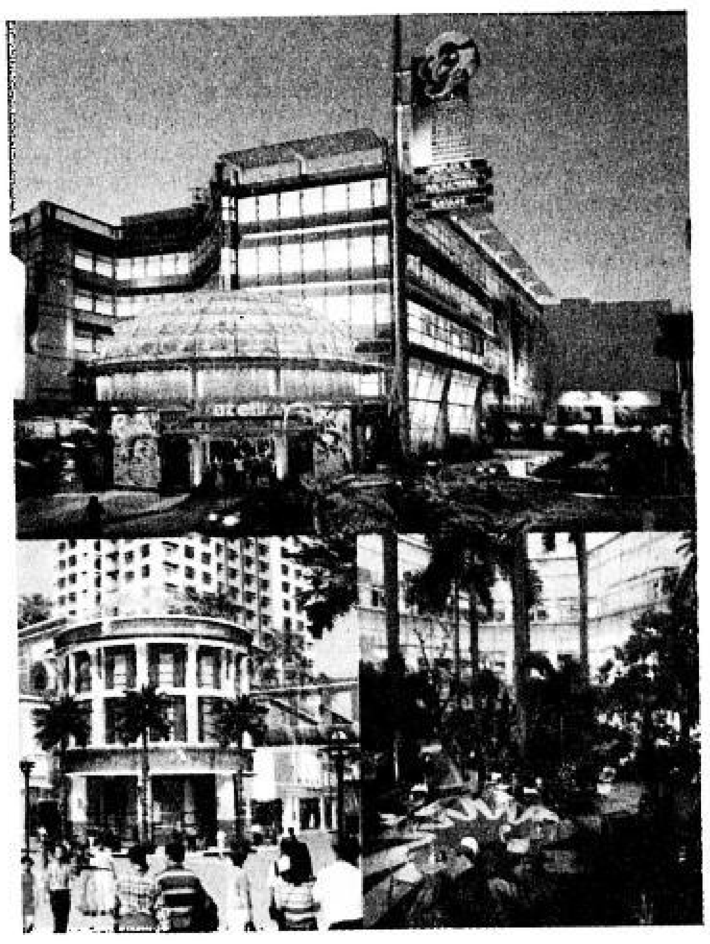
From the LRT-2 along Aurora Boulevard, Ateneo and UP in Quezon City and Manila's university belt are just minutes away. The MRT-3 along EDSA brings Makati, Ortigas and Taft Avenue within easy reach. Both lines join up with the LRT-1, making it easy to go anywhere from Monumento in Caloocan to Baclaran in Parañaque.

Surrounded by the Araneta Center's hot spots.

Be in the middle of a pulsating lifestyle and leisure center: the Araneta Center. From your home, a four-story **transfer station** with a hotel-style lobby, grand staircase and four passenger elevators brings you to the third level of Gateway Mall, which hosts the Oasis, a unique floating garden. From here, simply walk to the Araneta Coliseum. Or to Rustan's, SM, Shopwise, Ali Mall or Farmers Plaza.

Surrounded by the comforts of home.

When you're done exploring the world outside, your home is just a breath away. Whether it's an executive studio or one-bedroom suite, **Manhattan Parkway** offers you soothing views of the Araneta Center and Manila Bay. What's more, enjoy hours of active play at the fourth-level garden deck. There are trellised walkways, jogging trails, a fitness station, an indoor sauna/spa and a gym. And if that's not enough, a footbridge leads to more play amenities at the upcoming phases.



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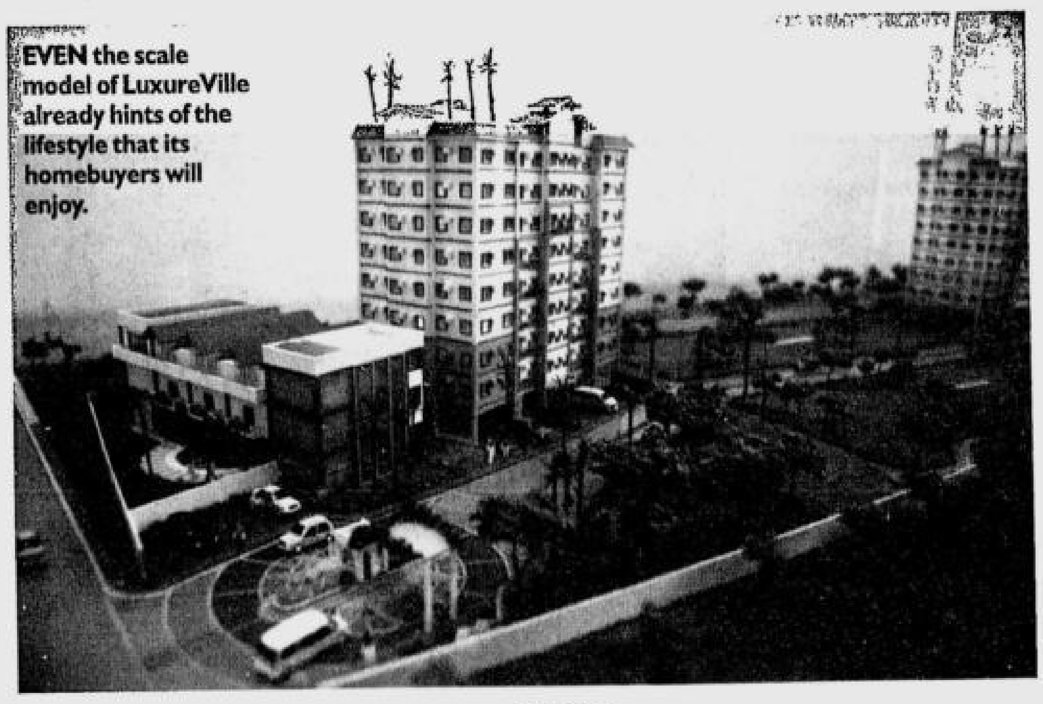

EVEN the scale model of LuxureVille already hints of the lifestyle that its homebuyers will enjoy.

Not just selling cars, but providing lifestyle as well

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

HYUNDAI ASIA RESOURces Inc. (Hari) is of course the official distributor of the Hyundai brand of vehicles in the Philippines.

But what a lot of its clients do not know is that Hari also has another business interest quite different from the other—that of developing real estate properties.

"We just had to put this other business on hold so we could concentrate on establishing the company's name as well as the Hyundai brand here in the Philippines in 2001," said Hari EVP and COO Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo, who herself, was engaged in real estate business before joining the company.

But now that Hari's vehicle business has gained a firm foothold in its market, Agudo believes it's about time Hari revive its other interest.

"I guess it's about time the market know about the company's real estate arm, Luxor Properties and Development Corp.," said Agudo.

Ready to offer

Agudo said Luxor Properties is now ready to offer its first project located inside the Multinational Village (Matthew Street) in Parañaque City.

"LuxureVille is a 1.25-hectare enclave inside the Multinational Village that offers a to-

NOT/B2-2

Brittany Corp. sets the trend in vertical developments with Avant at The Fort

Innovation, without doubt, is the hallmark of maverick real property developer Brittany Corporation. The drive to push the envelope further than any before them has resulted in various masterfully planned masterplanned properties that are not only unique but have come to set the trends in the industry.

To name but a few, the expansive Portofino development has brought Italy to Manila. Switzerland has found a home in Tagaytay with Swiss-inspired CrossWinds. And the postcard row of San Francisco along with its laid back lifestyle, has served as the inspiration for Brittany Bay.

AVANT FULL SHOT: "The stunning architecture of Avant at The Fort is expected to soon dominate the skyline of Bonifacio Global City."

Breaking new ground within the famed Bonifacio Global City is Brittany Corp.'s most recent development that strengthens the property developer's maverick spirit. Occupying what is perhaps the last remaining area within the much-sought after golden triangle of this prime community at the heart of the metropolis, Avant at The Fort is a reflection of ingénue in all aspects.

"We are extremely excited to offer Avant at The Fort. This is truly a stunning development - one that has challenged us to be unrelentingly creative from the architecture building to the interiors of every living space inside!" Brittany Corp. president Jing Serrano enthused.

A residential condominium, Avant is at the forefront of architectural design in the Philippines with respect to vertical developments in real estate. More importantly, Avant at the Fort will adopt a philosophy of environmental responsiveness through the practice of green architecture.

Truly ahead of its time, Avant at The Fort will be designed to the last square inch to bring forth not only an architecturally beautiful vertical residential development but one that is just as well-designed on the inside.

"We at Brittany Corp. are very confident that Avant at The Fort will set another trend in vertical residential properties. More importantly, we believe that this will pave the way in changing homeowners' perceptions and expectations and will raise the quality of living in the urban areas. Avant is truly a landmark development we are proud to include in our portfolio of properties," concluded Jing Serrano.

Brittany Corporation is a maverick real estate developer of innovative and creative lifescapes. Its eclectic and vibrant portfolio includes Brittany Bay, CrossWinds, Portofino, Georgia Club, The Islands and Mosaic at Greenbelt. With masterplanned communities steeped in character, stylistic and thematic appeal, rich architectural details and excellent craftsmanship, it successfully and continuously reinvents the local real estate landscape.

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Adapting global trends into the home

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer Asuncion

AS THE WORLD EVOLVES, SO DO OUR lifestyles. Stress, technology and the changing roles of men and women have challenged the way we manage our daily lives within our homes. As our surroundings play a major role in supporting those changes, we make physical adaptations to help us manage while maintaining our private spaces as our havens.

Here are a number of global trends and ways to incorporate them into your home.

The Wellness Revolution. Even with effective ways to reduce stress through exercise, diet and nutritional supplements, the home remains our refuge and enjoying it remains the most effective way of relaxation. Here are ways to enjoy it further:

- Convert an extra bedroom into a spa treatment room, complete with two massage tables, an amenity table and lounge chairs.
- Keep everything light and bright. Keep in mind that white is the color of healing and cleanliness.
- Decorate with live plants. If potted plants are too much trouble, large leaf cuttings in vases or jars will provide the same effect and they last for a few weeks.

Sustainable Living and the Global Power Crisis. In our race to save the planet, the home cries out for ecologically correct designs. Heed the trend.

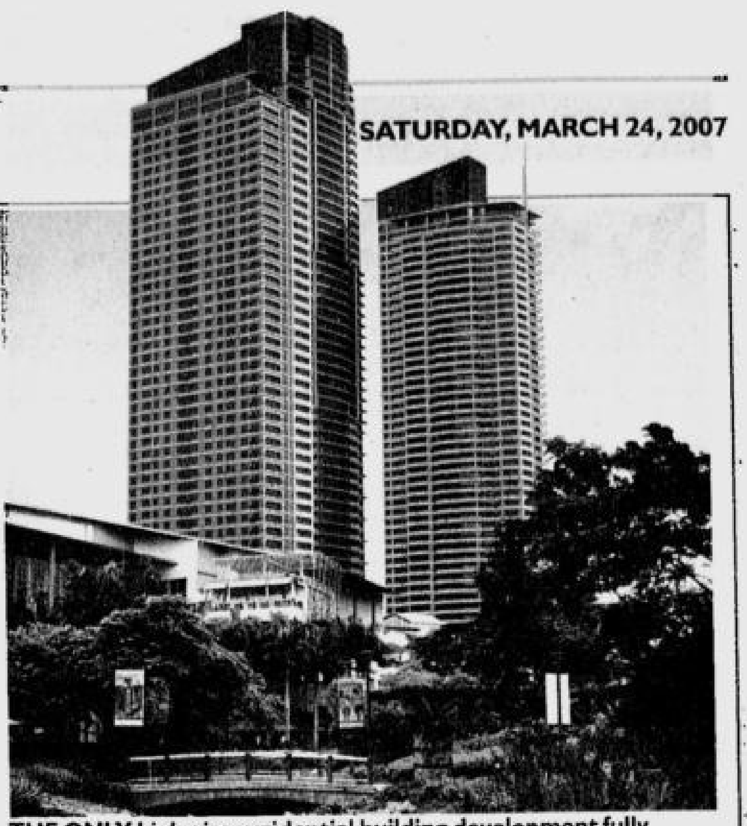
- Put a premium on cross ventilation and save on air conditioning.
- Have abundant natural lighting, incorporating cathedral ceilings and large clerestory windows with double glazing to keep the heat out.
- Switch to LED lighting. The fittings may initially be expensive but they allow long-term savings on the running cost of electricity.
- Provide adequate insulation in walls and especially ceilings.
- Use less textural materials in light cool tones to create a visually cooling environment for our tropical weather.

Rising Mobility and the Networked World. The convergence of information and technology and the rise of the Internet have made the world smaller. In response to increasing connectivity and more frequent travel, try these:

- Create a "charging station" for all your gadgets, where all the outlets and wiring are concealed so spaces remain clean despite all the connections.
- Introduce a valet room to store luggage and items "in transit." This can also store your out-of-town recreational equipment such as golf bags, beach gear like goggles and fins. Throw in ready-to-go winter wear and dry-cleaned or repaired items awaiting to be taken or stored.

The Rise of the Metrosexual Man and the Empowered Woman. While women around the globe continue to gain social, political and economic power, men too take on their space in the woman's world of vanity. As women exercise greater control over their lives and pursue more options, so too are the men imposing their preferences around their home and spaces. Efficiently planned areas are needed to allow for the overlap of functions and needs. Here are ways to accommodate these trends:

- Plan your bathrooms so that they can have two lavatories and shared compartments kept private as they are used at the same time.
- Create a separate vanity and closet space, his own "groom room."
- Integrate a private home-office and walk-in closet spaces. It addresses the multitasking need—of both men and women—to be close to everything at one time, to send off e-mails while glamming it up for a social affair.
- Keep spaces precise and within. There is such a thing as too much space and unnecessary clutter.



THE ONLY high-rise residential building development fully integrated with the Greenbelt lifestyle center.

Superior convenience awaits you at The Residences at Greenbelt

THE CONCEPT OF CONDO living has been catching on quickly among Filipinos drawn to the promise of modern, convenient living. With accessible locations and amenities that put various recreational activities within reach, high-rise living has been enticing people of various lifestyles.

However, it's the attention to small details and the promise of superior after-hours service that residents appreciate most in condo living. Be it the out-and-about bachelor who does not have the time to clean, the busy mom who can't finish her errands for the day, or the frequent jetsetter who spends more time out of the country than in his own bedroom, The Residences at Greenbelt offers a comprehensive array of premier property management services that cater to residents' every conceivable need.

Concierge services

Superior quality of service is just one of the things that make living at The Residences at Greenbelt truly special. Much like the services one experiences in a five-star hotel, unit owners would certainly welcome concierge services that attend to the many little details of day-to-day living.

For example, The Residences at Greenbelt boasts of a 24-hour Service Desk, which ensures that residents can have someone attend to their needs at any time. It will have a knowledgeable and experienced maintenance staff who can attend to various problems in individual units, as well as in the building's common areas. From air-conditioning maintenance to pest control, even housekeeping and appliance repair can be handled by the maintenance team promptly and efficiently.

This means that the resident bachelor can have the concierge arrange for daily laundry or dry cleaning. A standing arrangement for general housekeeping—whether it's having someone to water the plants or feed one's pet fish—will ease the worries of single living.

The busy mom can easily arrange for her children's school bus service through the concierge as well. She can even have an in-house staff assist her in planning her child's first birthday at The Fifth's grand podium area. With all these taken care of, there will now be time for some pampering at the in-house spa, or shopping at her favorite Greenbelt boutique.

Building administrator

And for the jet-setting resident who is thinking of leasing out his or her unit, the building administrator can ably assist in finding a tenant and collecting rent. Dues and other bills can even be paid through mobile or online banking, perfect for those who are always out of the country.

As a prime development of Ayala Land Premier, The Residences at Greenbelt provides service well beyond the usual with the help of top property management teams dedicated to taking excellent care of Ayala Land Premier's many projects. These experts focus not only on the day-to-day conveniences they can offer to unit owners, they also ensure—through preventive maintenance—that the clients' investments are protected.

The only high-rise residential building development fully integrated with the Greenbelt lifestyle center, The Residences at Greenbelt presents residents with a wide array of lifestyle choices within and around their new home—truly an epitome of an Ayala Land Premier development. Ayala Land Premier carries the heritage of Ayala Land, strengthening its distinction as the first, full-line real estate developer to meet the needs of discerning homeowners, creating new lifestyles and appointing prime addresses. Innovatively designed and exceptionally engineered, Ayala Land Premier developments define distinctive living.

For further information about The Residences at Greenbelt, please call 728-7000, or log on to www.ayalalandpremier.com, or e-mail ask@ayalalandpremier.com.

A winning innovation in urban living

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

IT'S A GOOD THING THAT increasingly interesting lifestyle developments are coming up, changing our streetscapes for the better. Today, diners and mall goers have an alternative destination to the usual shopping centers and department store complexes dotting the cities.

These days, the place to be is an evolution of the mall experience, coupled with a park ambience. It presents patrons with a variety of shopping and dining choices, as in a regular mall, but spread out in an outdoorsy, relaxed atmosphere, as in a park. A perfect example of this development concept is the Serendra in Fort Bonifacio.

Besides the lower-floor commercial spaces, this development concept hosts residential units on its higher levels. For those so inclined, you could live in a residential condominium with a prestigious address and enjoy your social life just a few paces away. You can lay claim to a tastefully executed unit and have the whole of Fort Bonifacio for your backyard.

Sustainable development

Although it is in the heart of the city, sustainable development was seriously considered for this project. This is evident in the greenery that surrounds the place. Such a greenbelt lowers the temperature in the area significantly. The need for air-conditioned areas is thereby reduced, which is a noteworthy step toward helping the environment.

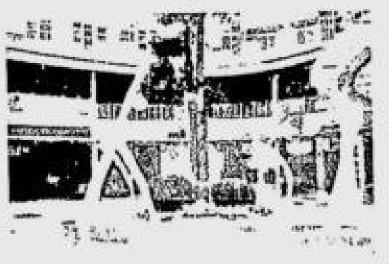
In addition, having everything nearby helps you save on fuel and transportation expenses.

Imagine also the quality time you gain because you don't have to wallow in traffic, but can rather spend it with your family and friends.

A couple of years ago, in this same column, I cited this very concept of mixed-use development, but using an example from abroad, the Santana Row in San Jose, California. Now, only two years later, we have our own version to boast about. A project such as this is an important contribution to the community in the sense that it raises the benchmark for other developers to be more generous with their green spaces and not to think of cost efficiency and profit margins alone.

Soothing view

THE KOI Pond of Two Serendra provides an interesting centerpiece amid the development.



STORES are facing each other across a grassy field, thus creating its own soothing view which encourages strolling and relaxing.

In the Serendra concept, the stores are facing each other across a grassy field, thus creating its own soothing view which encourages strolling and relaxing. Other developments have majority of their commercial units facing the street for visibility. This old idea tends to reduce the warmth and laid-back atmosphere of an area. It disregards the notion that people would rather see and be beside other people, rather than cars and traffic. It is likewise important to mention that with the new set-up, shoppers are safer and store security is easier to control.

Of course, a valuable factor in the success of this concept is the landscaping of the green areas. But, here in our country, we have many talented landscape architects who can step up to just such a challenge. These gifted professionals are doing their best to improve the ecological balance within our cities and maximizing the potentials of the nooks and crannies of land the architects have not used up.

Exceptional talents

Unfortunately, many of our landscape architects are fast being siphoned away by neighboring countries like China, where their exceptional talents are being harnessed to the max. That's how good they are! But perhaps, with more builders realizing the intrinsic value of creating a more relaxing, pleasant social area, many of them will still choose to stay.

In this new trend of mixed-use development, the urban homeowner ends up with all the winning cards. Residences do not need to be distant, boring places. Time and energy do not have to be misallocated into traveling to the fun places because the fun places could be right at one's doorstep. Now too, builders will be sure to outdo each other in offering relaxing, greener places to shop, dine and hang out.

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Not just selling . . .

From page B2-1

tally new and refreshing milieu. Consider it your retreat from the hustle and bustle of Metro Manila," Agudo described.

There will be a total of seven buildings (of nine to 11 stories high) within the development with the first one, the Goldfinch, now ready for occupancy.

"The design concept of the whole development is contemporary tropical and features a clubhouse (where the spa, vanishing-edged pool and function rooms are located), jogging path, bird bath as well as garden lobby and sky garden. More than planning for a space or for a building or structure, we first took into consideration the kind of life that we would offer to our homebuyers," Agudo said.

Less than a million

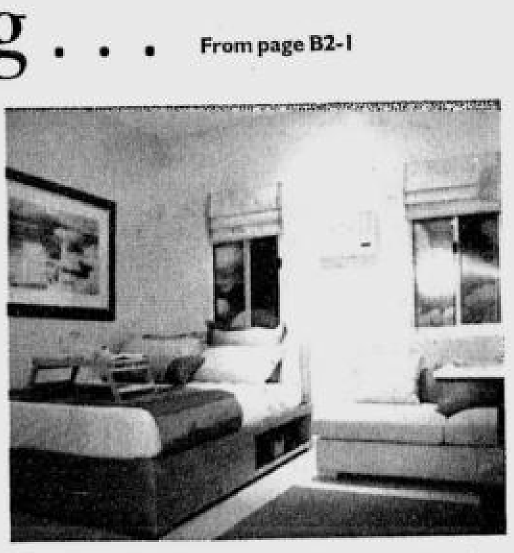
Agudo informed that units at LuxureVille cost less than a million for a studio to about P2.4 million for a two-bedroom unit.

"However, a homebuyer could choose to combine several units to make it bigger. This concept revolved around our vision to design a living space that would fit our homebuyer's lifestyle and requirements," she said.

Agudo also informed that financing (in-house, bank, Pag-Ibig) terms will also be offered to homebuyers, which Hari identified would be composed mostly of young professionals, families of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) as well as start-up families.

Close to nature

LuxureVille provides an environment that is close to nature despite it's being located within a city.



A MODEL of one of the studio units offered at LuxureVille can be viewed at the Hyundai headquarters on Gil Puyat Avenue.

"Greeneries would definitely fill up every open corner of the development. Each building will have its own garden lobby as well as top floor garden. We even took into consideration the project's proximity to the airport, which is just a few minutes away and thus, will not affect the occupants in terms of noise coming from the aircraft," Agudo explained.

But what will set LuxureVille apart from other condominium developments is its movement-friendly layout. In spite of being a relatively compact environment, LuxureVille is structured and laid out to provide enough space for its residents to move around.

"Indeed, this development is a great revelation for our customers visiting the Hyundai headquarters on Gil Puyat Avenue (formerly Buendia). Looking at the development's scale model as well as the model units on the third floor, they are fascinated about the lifestyle that this development offers," said Agudo.

CrownAsia introduces new collection of luxurious residences

CROWNASIA, THE PIONEER DEVELOPER OF themed communities with value and style, recently unveiled its latest line of sophisticated Italian-inspired models for the company's select developments, the Luxuria Home Series.

CrownAsia draws inspiration from the laid-back lifestyle at the Italian countryside and the distinct structural design of picturesque homes found in the Mediterranean. An aptly named collection of stylish homes, the Luxuria line offers Filipino families an array of luxurious yet affordable residences with an elegant theme.

Luxuria model homes

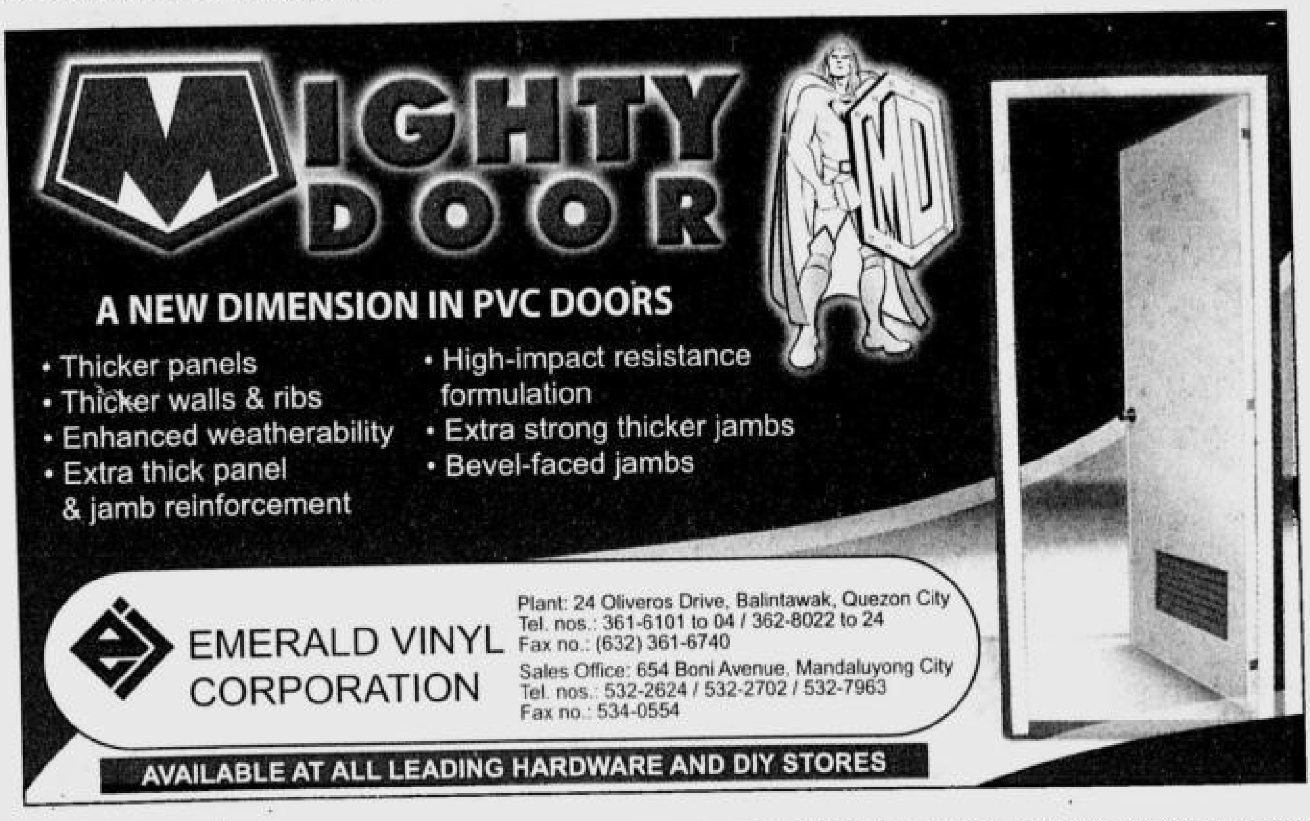
The use of earth-toned color schemes and distinct Italian design elements create a warm and cozy ambiance. The Luxuria Home Series is comprised of seven new models, each with unique living configurations that combine function and esthetics to fit the varying needs of young couples and growing families:

- **Tiffany**, with a 86-square-meter floor area on a 110-sq-m lot and features a living and dining area, kitchen, three bedrooms, two toilets and baths, utility area, maid's quarter with toilet and bath, and carport;
- **Lalique**, with a 110-sq-m floor area on a 121-sq-m lot and features a living and dining area, kitchen, master's bedroom with own toilet and bath, two bedrooms, powder room, toilet and bath, lanai, balcony, utility area, maid's quarter with toilet and bath, and carport;
- **Murano**, with a 150 sq-m- floor area on a 132-sq-m lot and features a living room, dining room, kitchen, master's bedroom with own toilet and bath with tub, two bedrooms, toilet and bath, lanai, balcony, utility area, maid's quarter with toilet and bath, and carport. Uniquely found in the Murano model, the ground floor has a toilet and bath which connects to a pocket garden;
- **Lenox**, with a 171-sq-m floor area on a 150-sq-m lot and features a living and dining area, kitchen, master's bedroom with toilet and bath, two bedrooms, toilet and bath, powder room, family hall, den which can be converted to an extra bedroom, lanai, balcony, maid's quarter with toilet and bath, and carport;
- **Llardo**, with a 192-sq-m floor area on a 180-sq-m lot and features a living and dining area, kitchen, master's bedroom with walk-in closet and toilet and bath with tub, two bedrooms with adjoining toilet and bath, powder room, entertainment area, study, porch, lanai, balcony, utility area, maid's quarter with toilet and bath, and carport;
- **Rosenthal**, with a 207-sq-m minimum lot area on a minimum of 180-sq-m lot and features a living room, dining room, kitchen, powder room, porch, lanai, utility area, maid's quarter with own toilet and bath, and carport at the ground floor; master's bedroom with toilet and bath with tub, study, bedroom, toilet and bath, and balcony at the second floor; and two bedrooms, toilet and bath, and a large entertainment area to accommodate the whole family at the Rosenthal's third floor;
- **Roman**, with a 252 sq-m minimum lot area on a minimum of 210-sq-m lot and features a spacious dining and living area, kitchen, master's bedroom with walk-in closet and own toilet and bath with tub, two bedrooms each with its own toilet and bath, powder room, family hall, den, lanai, balcony, auxiliary kitchen, maid's and driver's quarter with separate toilet and bath, and two-car garage.

Backed by an 11-year experience in the real estate industry and by partnering with only the best consultants, architects, interior designers and landscape artists, CrownAsia successfully designed its Luxuria collection to evoke the warmth and charm of picturesque Italy. Prices range from P3 to P8 million.

The Luxuria Home Series is exclusively offered at select master-planned, themed communities of CrownAsia: Ponticelli in Daang Hari, Alabang; Mille Luce in Antipolo City; Vittoria and Residenza in Bacoor, Cavite; Citta Italia, Vita and Vivace in Imus, Cavite; Amalfi in Dasmariñas, Cavite; Fortezza in Cabuyao, Laguna and Valenza in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

EARTH tones and Italian-inspired details create a warm and cozy ambience for Murano.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Luxurious living at Eastwood LeGrand

RISING AT THE HEART OF THE Palm District of Eastwood City, Libis is a 38-story, modern art-deco architectural marvel—the Eastwood LeGrand. Its eye-catching yellow façade with white trims, earth-tone colors at the podium, grayish brown grillwork and tall tinted windows at the tower makes this address modern and unapologetically cutting-edged.

Inside, you'll experience French-inspired luxury from the posh lobby-lounge and up inside one of the four high-speed elevators and into your one-bedroom unit. While you can still see the busy city outside your windows, you start feeling removed from the noise of civilization without being too far away.

Theme

The Eastwood LeGrand one-bedroom model unit shows you what can be done with your own unit once it is ready for you. The modern Asian theme with its clean lines and wood lattices, creates the feeling of more space, while the drop lighting lends more drama to the monochromatic themes and sophistication to the room. With its layout and ample space given to each room, the one-bedroom unit can be a clean palette on which you can express whatever design that you feel suits you.

On the seventh floor pool deck, you can get to know a few of your neighbors as you take a break and go for a dip in the pool, get some exercise in with a few laps, or just have your tired muscles massaged at the jet spa. There is also an outdoor fitness station, for future reference, should you feel like working out some other day.

Lifestyle

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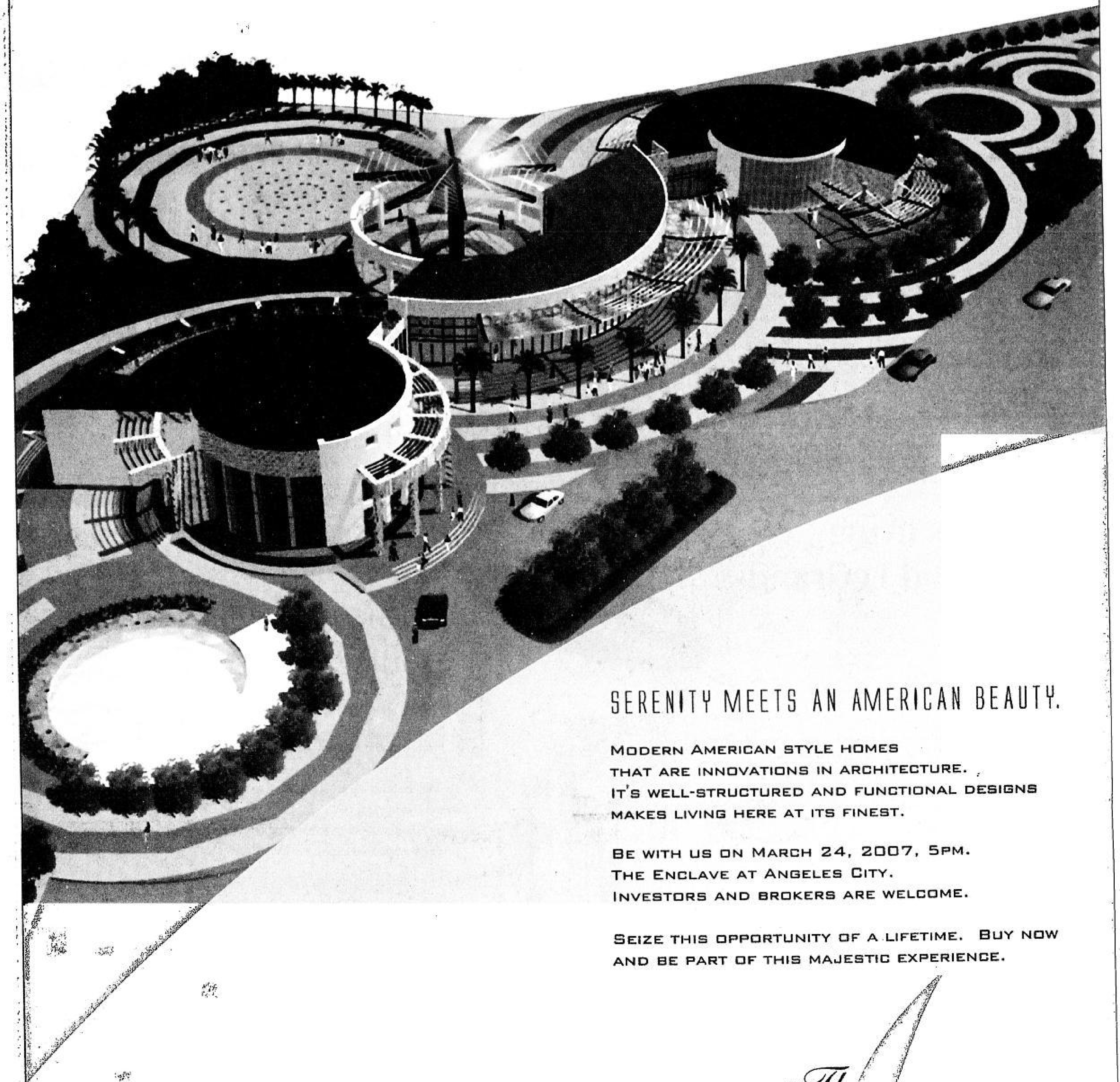

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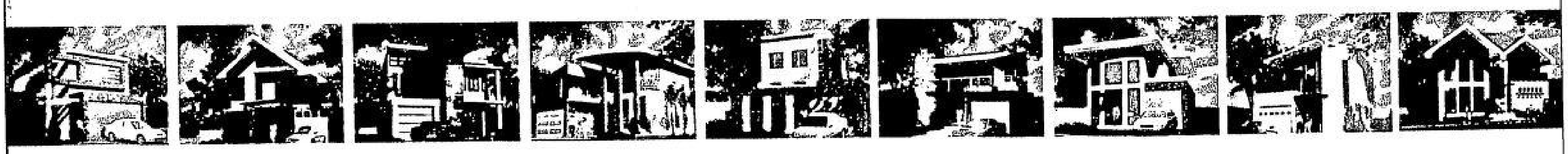

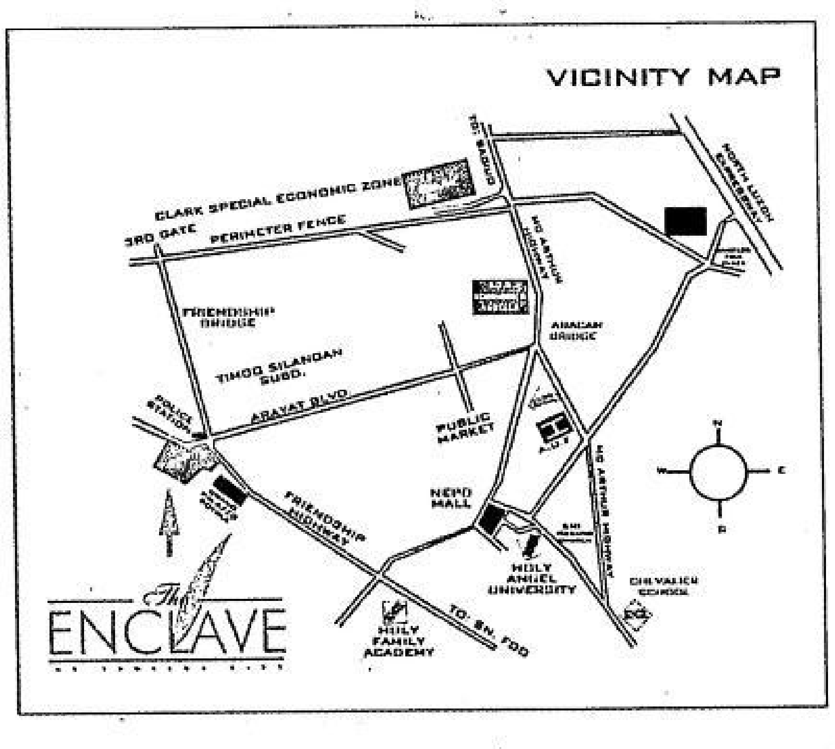
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Meow

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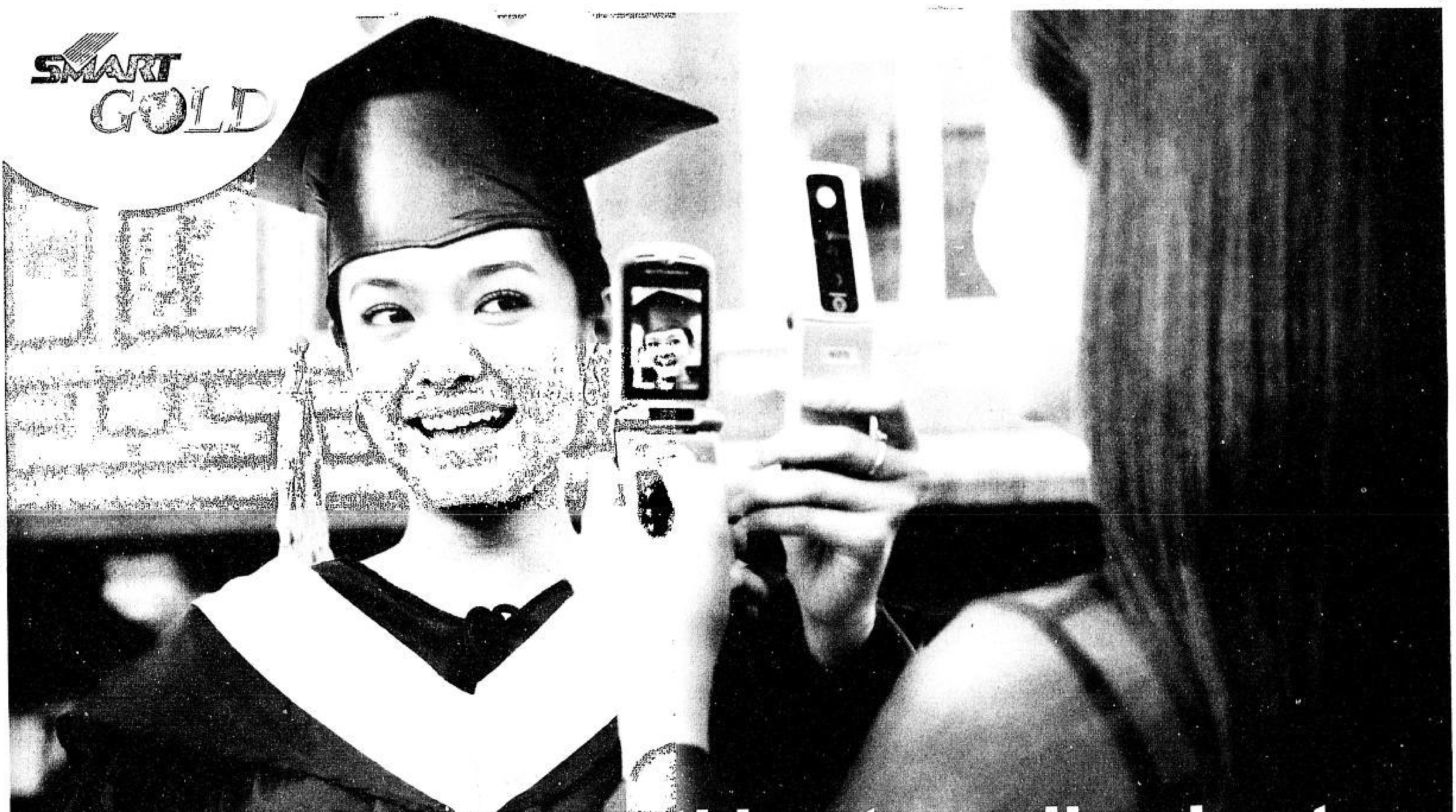

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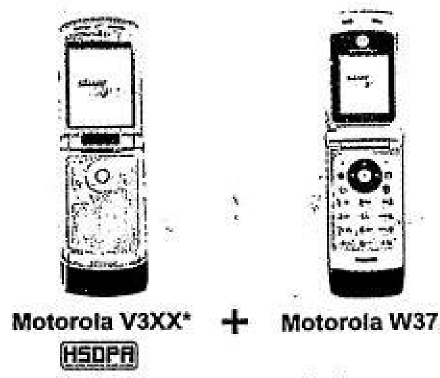

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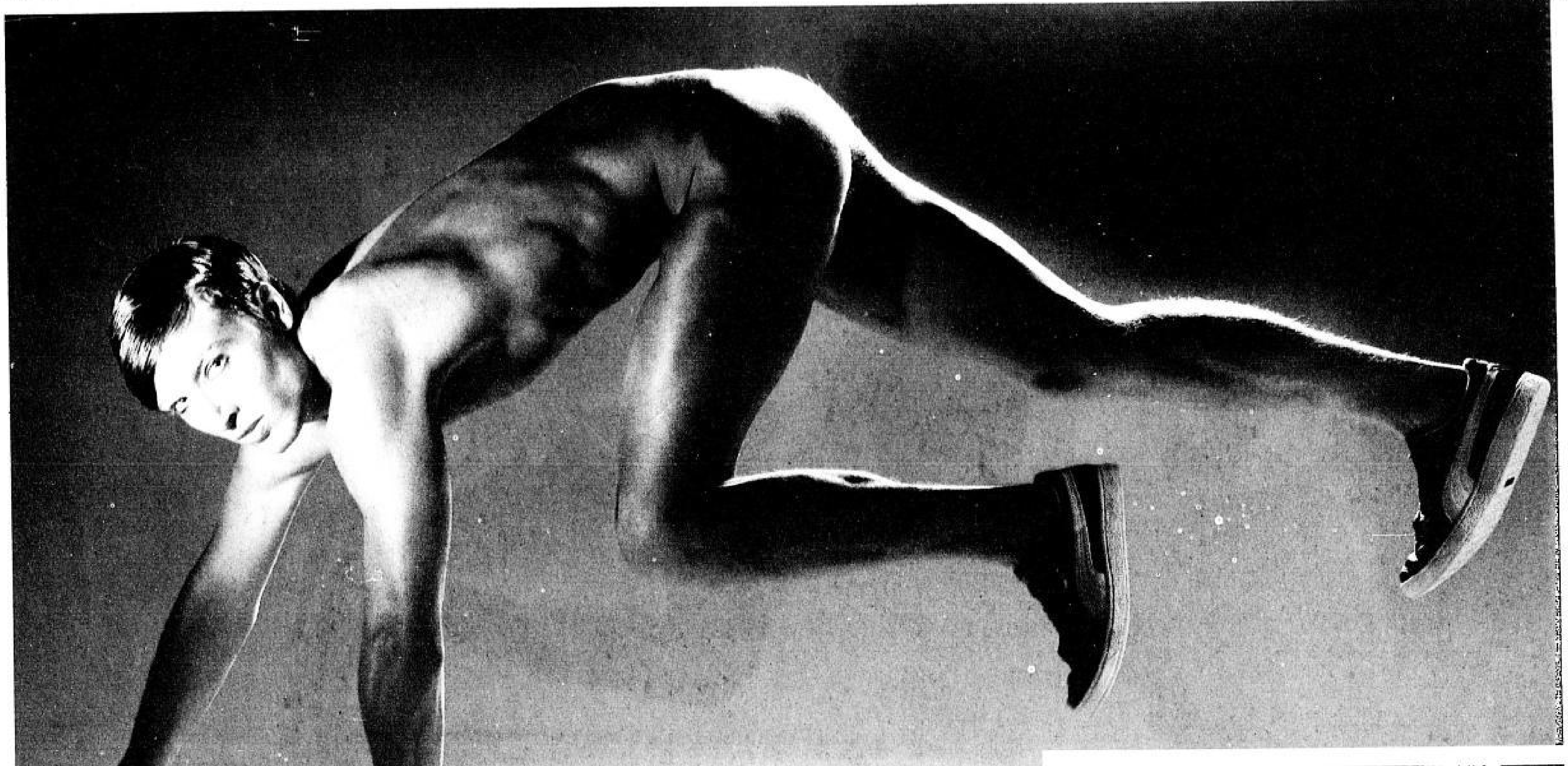

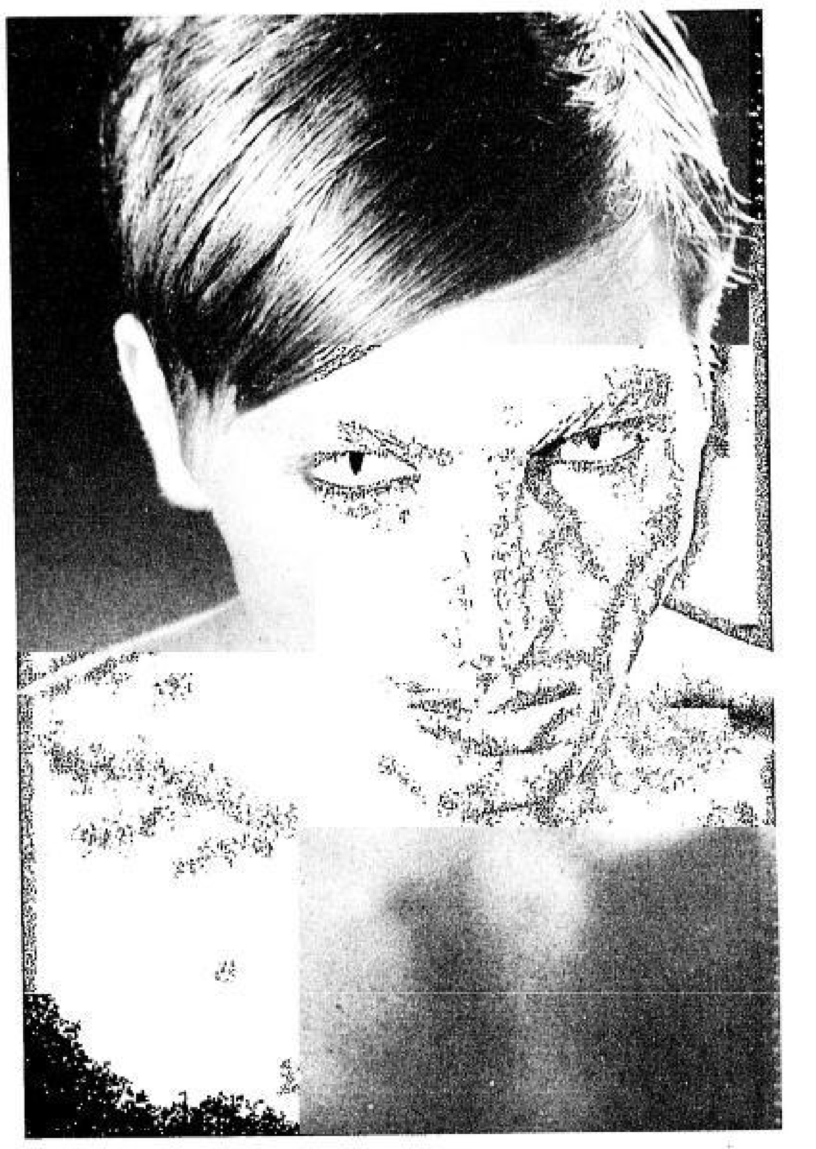

A new cat comes to town

Don't be a slave to the rat race. In this predator-prey contest, be the cat

By Tals Diaz and James Gabrillo
Photo by Ramon Tan Mangila of Pix Republik

THE MOON CAST A CURIOUS light on the alleyway that was completely isolated from the street. It illuminated a figure in the dark corner. As if cued by the sudden glow, it moved gracefully along the pathway, fur glistening in the moonlight.

The figure remained nonchalant. It ambled along, a silhouette forming patterns in the shadows. At times in the darkness, it looked like a shapeshifter, morphing fluidly from human to beast to preternatural creature of the night. It amplified the drama of the silence.

Suddenly, its intense, sharp marble eyes sensed a stirring. Prey or predator perhaps? Baring its teeth for but a blink, it leaped, from pavement to high wall, then into the darkness again. And it lands on its feet.

Its very movement is poetry come to life.

It is PUMA.

Puma, the brand that has been in the Helps-You-Look-Good business since 1948, will be opening a new store at Bonifacio High Street on March 28.

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1. The hunt is open to parent-child teams. Children from ages 2 to 12 can join with their mom or dad as partner.

2. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Only the first 200 registrants may participate.

3. Registration forms are available at the Administration Office, Level 5, Shangri-la Plaza. Registration starts on March 24. Registration fee is ₱350 per parent-child team.

4. Teams should assemble at 1:00 pm on April 8, 2007 at the Grand Atrium, Level 2. (No-show teams will not be qualified for registration fee refund.)

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Pop opportunity

Your Super! guide to election commercials

By James Gabrillo

I FEEL SO LUCKY TO be living in such an exciting time. You'd never know when you'd get arrested by the President's men, grandpas like Sylvester Stallone and Mr. Shooli are making movie comebacks, and "Deal or No Deal" is finally off-air.

Best of all, there's Prospero Pichay trying to save lives in thick makeup. Not just him, but also a billion other men and women who are trying to get the people's nod.

Heck, this is definitely more than just the circus coming to town. I've never felt so upbeat since the first season finale of "Lost!"

Super! screened our beloved senatorial candidates' TV commercials. Here's the verdict.

Noynoy Aquino

Guest starring: She-who-must-not-be-named

Good: Didn't resort to drama

NOT cool: The sister dominating 98.653 percent of the airtime. I honestly thought it was her new corned beef commercial. *I-Chunkee check mo!*

The Super! verdict: I have so much respect for Aquino. Biases aside, I think he should've been better off having an ad that focused on his attributes, since the public doesn't know a lot about him aside from being the son of a national hero.

Kiko Pangilinan

Guest starring: The wifey and the kidz

Good: The ads will surely connect to the Filipino people.

NOT cool: One full 30-second commercial stars Pangilinan's young daughter Frankie, hinting about the way his father brought her up. She's like, what? Five? Yes, it's really cute, but we're talking about the Senate here.

The Super! verdict: If the surveys are to be believed, Kiko is on the right track. To ensure a victory, he should devote most of his campaign time not on screen time with his superstar wife, but on letting people know what his real plans are.

Prospero Pichay

Guest starring: Random wistful Filipino people

Good: It's an ultra-quick glimpse at our countrymen's problems.

NOT cool: Pichay entering the frame and asking people to plant him. Is it the end of the world as we know it?

The Super! verdict: You'd be better off just looking at his posters, which, like those pink MMDA urinals, are on every block. Really, Pichay should think about just how much money he's shelling out for his campaign—money that could be used for other good, worthwhile things.

Ralph Recto

Guest starring: *Kabayan* Noli de Castro, who cameos in the last two seconds of the ad

Good: I'd have to admit that the whole dancing metaphor was well-thought-of.

NOT cool: Veep Noli shouting *"Ko-recto!"* as a check mark flashes on screen. Hookaay.

The Super! verdict: Execution is kind of comical. Plus points for not making Mayor V join the dance number. But seriously, at least Recto chose a distinct path for his ads.

Ed Angara

Guest starring: Sarah G. in da hizouse!

Good: Sarah G. uttering inspirational lines that actually work

NOT cool: Sarah G. suddenly bursting into the song that made her famous, with *Tito* Ed standing awkwardly by her side.

The Super! verdict: *"Angara ng buhay, Angara na sa Senado"* is a little bland but straight to the point. The commercial gets the message across given the 30-second restriction. Good enough.

Migz Zubiri

Guest starring: Random perky Pinoys

Good: Over-all production value is great. Plus points because Migzubiri (a nice Yahoo! ID) was the real star of the show, not another celebrity endorser.

NOT cool: *Tararat-tararat* is so far from *Zubiri-zubiri*, nu?

The Super! verdict: It's hard to concentrate when Wowowilly's face keeps on popping in your head while watching. But again, I'd have to say that Zubiri and his team are doing a fine job—proof of this is his sudden climb to the top bunch in the last recent survey.

Mike Défensor

Guest starring: Keanna Reeves, a Manny Pacquiao impersonator, and Boy Abunda's voice

Good: A skillful celeb builder, Abunda can only do so much. I liked ... the black background. A hint of what's to come if Mike gets elected?

NOT cool: Braces is back! Humor is the new form of government!

The Super! verdict: I used to really like Mike D. (not to be confused with Mike A., who's equally amusing) back when he was still fixing the roads of QC with asphalt. But Mike D. did a Severus Snape and jumped to the dark side. But is Mike, like Snape, just pretending, believing that it's the only way to save the Philippines (the Wizarding World)? Is there a lot of Harry Potter allusions in this piece or what?

Alan Peter Cayetano

Guest starring: He-who-must-not-be-named

Good: The ad's brave yet a little cheeky. It's such a relief that he didn't put his dad on a silhouette like what Pia-Pia-Pia Cayetano did last elections.

NOT cool: I got to see this commercial for a grand total of one time. Too bad, 'cause it's pretty interesting.

The Super! verdict: Can you imagine He-who-must-not-be-named's reaction the first time he saw this? Priceless. Like many of the senatoriables, Cayetano should really just focus on presenting programs of action rather than banking on past controversies that shoved him to the limelight.

Chiz Escudero

Guest starring: *Rakistas, pare, rakistas!*

Good: *"Sugod kasama si Chiz"* is the most personal tagline in the bunch.

NOT cool: Crazy kidz jumping up and down, forming the saddest moshpit composed of 10 people

The Super! verdict: I'm not really a big fan of Chiz (not to be confused with cheesy, which is what the commercial is)—but this TV ad is pretty convincing. The next Raul Roco? Watch out, Mr. Palengke on 2010!

It's true that most of these candidates are forced to resort to the song-and-dance routine, knowing that it's a sure way to catch the public's attention. But one can be witty without being hysterical, and certainly one can stand out without losing credibility. Some may say that selling out is the way to reach out, but real leaders should prove that they can make the public tune in by doing other substantial things. Perhaps, competent and genuine service?

Fall in love with the new Jollibee desserts

Filipinos love desserts. In fact, they will find every reason (and season) to get their just desserts. Whether it's a special occasion or a daily gathering of family and friends, Filipinos make sure that there's something sweet waiting for them during meals. For all the right reasons, Filipinos have much to celebrate about whenever thoughts and tastes turn to all things sugary and sumptuous.

With Filipino culture colored by local and foreign influences, plus the fact that the Philippines is a rich source of natural ingredients, it is understandable that the possibilities are endless. Desserts can come in every shape, size, form, and persuasion. The ground can cover everything from fresh fruits to cakes and pastries.

Now, if there's anything that Pinoys would prefer to enjoy, it's a cold dessert. With summer reaching its peak and fiestas gathering steam, cold desserts are a definite hit on the festive table. Not only do they help beat the heat, these desserts make the occasion a lot more fun for everyone.

These provide an opportunity of sharing, a backdrop for bonding between familiar feelings, or as conversation pieces in themselves. Should it be any surprise then, that cold desserts are Filipino staples?

Now Pinoys have two new cool desserts to fall in love with: Jollibee's newest Ice Craze variants Saba con Hielo and Mango de Crema. In this season of summer and fiestas, nothing beats the satisfaction of enjoying these flavors that reflect the mood of the times.

Pinoys who enjoy the sweet taste of bananas will surely jump with joy once they try Saba con Hielo Ice Craze. It is made of finely shaved ice and topped with sliced ripe banana, caramelized banana puree, and chewy black tapioca. It is blended with sweet milk and sprinkled with rice crispies.

Summer fiestas are never complete without the glorious sweetness of mangoes. Jollibee's Mango de Crema Ice Craze is a dessert of shaved ice, sugary mango bits, mango puree, and tender nata strips. Added with milk, cream topping, and caramel drizzle and it is one feast for the senses.

Jollibee's Ice Craze is available in all stores for only P27. For a complete and satisfying Value Meal, upgrade it to an Ice Craze Special by adding P10 only and have it topped with a Vanilla soft serve. The Saba con Hielo and Mango de Crema are the newest additions to the Ice Craze menu which also includes Ube Keso.

Pinoys who want to get their cold dessert fix any day can now simply hop over to Jollibee and chill out over a relaxing serving of Mango de Crema, Saba con Hielo, and Ube Keso Ice Craze.

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Gimme' five!

By Pam Pastor and David Milan
Photo by Daniel Tan

EVERYONE HAS A BORACAY story.

But not all Boracay stories involve an endless supply of what is arguably the best salpicao we've ever tasted, a hunt for sunken pirate treasure and a sunset party aboard a trimaran.

It was Shu-Nami Moto Year Five and for a few days, some of the city's busiest people left their beloved Manila to conquer the shores of Boracay.

Well, "conquer" means sleeping in, getting massages, sunbathing, swimming in champagne and enjoying butler service 24/7.

Many people look at this yearly event as one big extravaganza.

And it is.

But it's not just that.

It's missing your flight because you didn't look at your ticket close enough.

[illegible]

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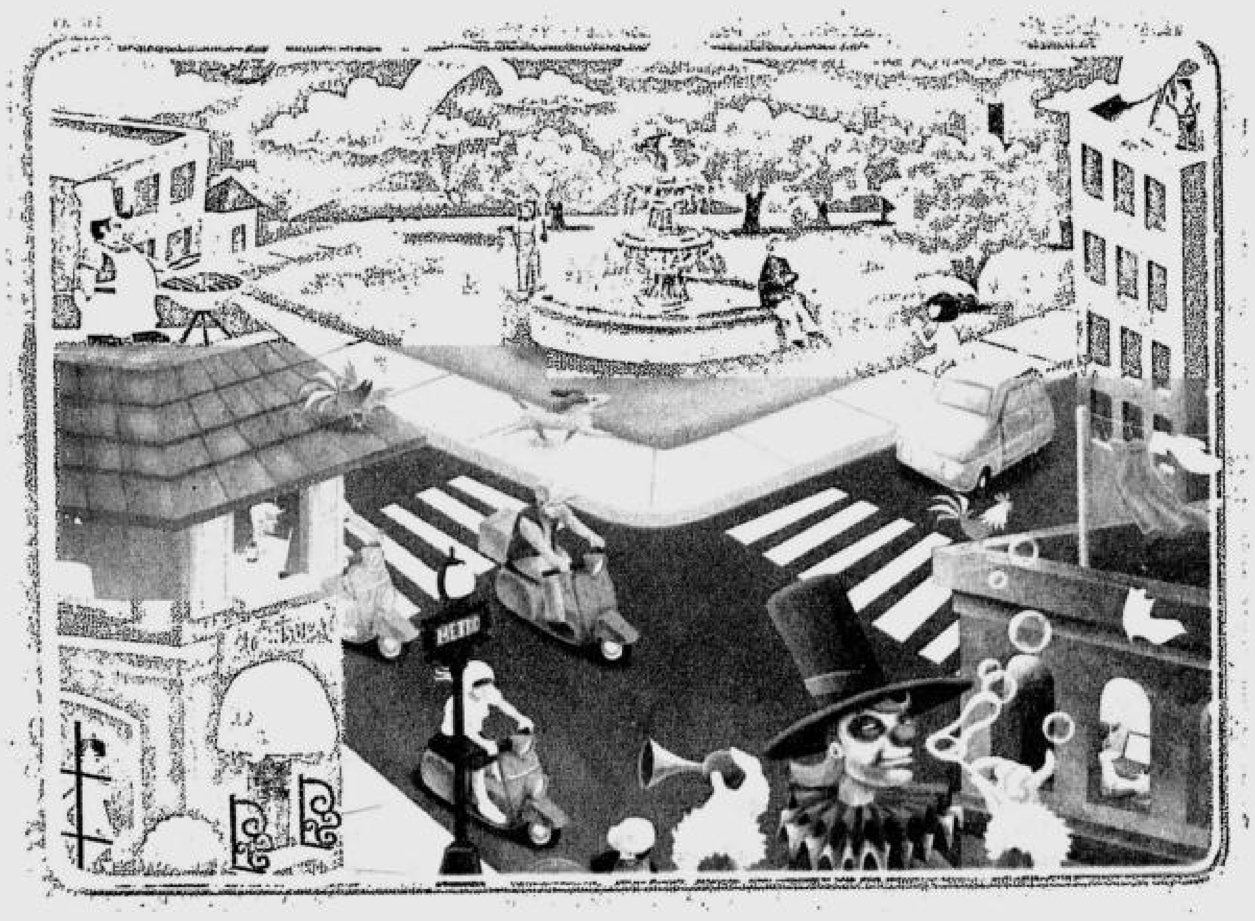

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CHEESE Ledesma, Joel Ong

TESSA Dragon, Xeng Zulueta

KIM Yap

DJ MONTANO, Ipe Cruz, Juan Elizalde, Blanca Aran

MARIKO Jacinto, Ianne Evangel Ilarde

Gimme' five!

From page D1

It's throwing a bunch of first-timers into the mix of Shu-Nami-Moto veterans and seeing everyone have a blast.

It's a chance to be creative, to be in neck-deep water in an attempt to push a boat over to send a model flying into the ocean.

It's a birthday celebrated several times over—with a surprise cake at lunch, with one party on dry land and another aboard a boat and by choosing to be the one to give gifts.

It's a time to meet new people, to strengthen bonds and to rekindle old friendships.

It's a moment to share industry secrets and spend a huge chunk of that time laughing like crazy.

It's sharing a room with semi-strangers, a luxe version of Pinoy Big Brother, and not minding at all.

It's a series of outfit changes and unabashedly ignoring the party themes.

It's looking for food at 3 a.m. and finding it—a lot of it.

It's diving into unknown depths and learning a new language—underwater.

It's enjoying two rounds of insanely good ice cream and feeling like kids again.

It's discovering a knack for synchronized swimming—to the amusement of your friends.

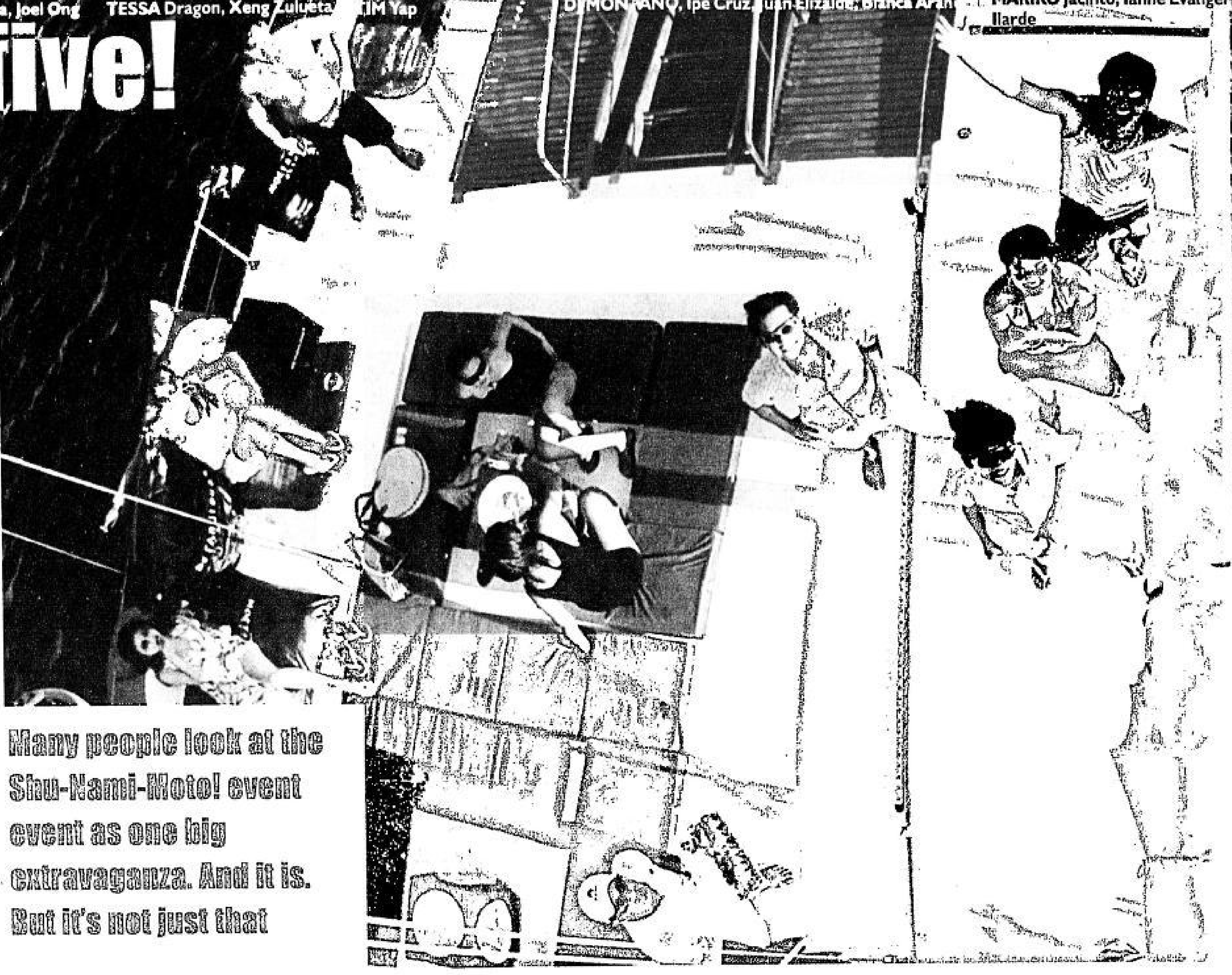
It's grabbing the mic from the provincial band, singing cheesy '70s songs and driving the crowd wild.

It's knowing how to throw a mobile party, one that you can move completely, in case of rain.

For some, it was a last hurrah of sorts, just before a temporary goodbye.

For others, it was the signal of a new beginning, a peek of what is to come.

For everyone, it was a three-day adventure, swinging from The Love Boat to Fantasy Island, arming ourselves with enough ammo to survive life in the city once again.



Many people look at the Shu-Nami-Moto! event event as one big extravaganza. And it is. But it's not just that

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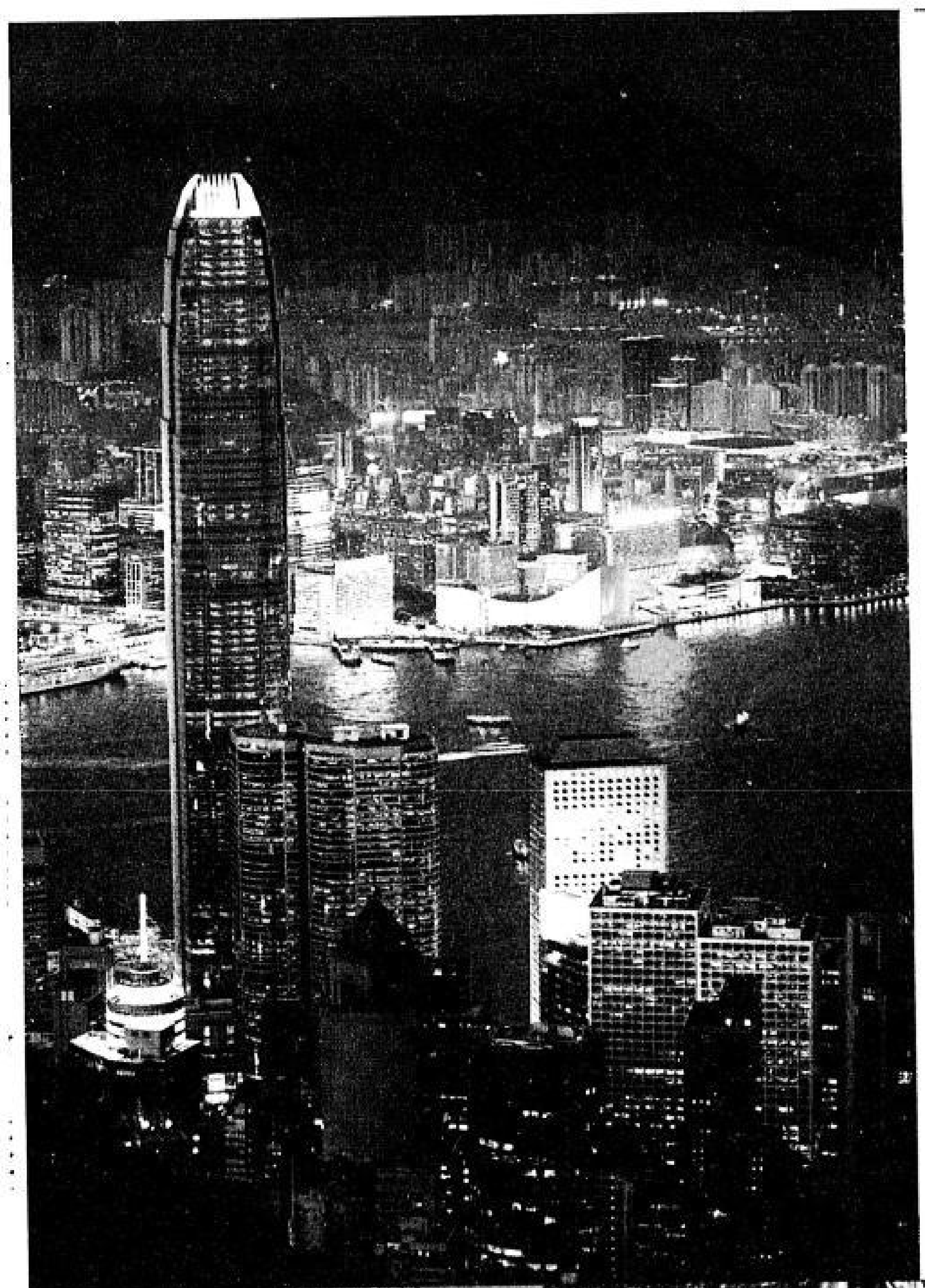

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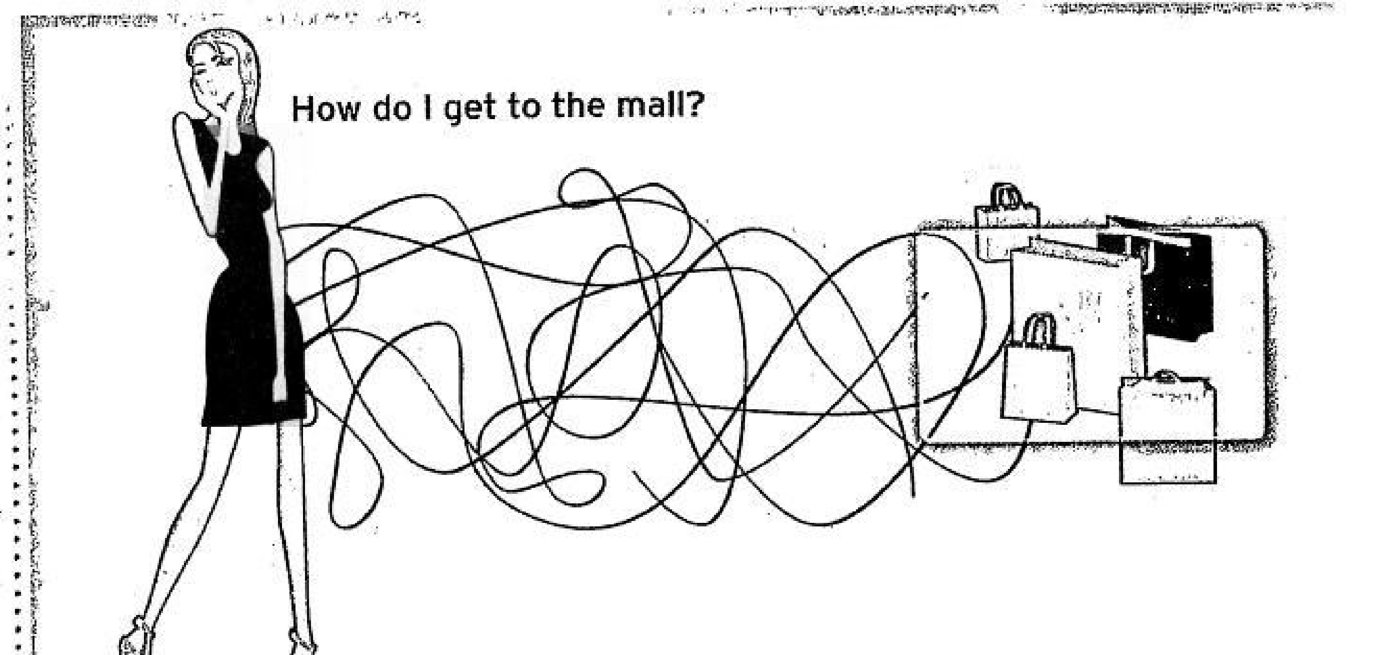
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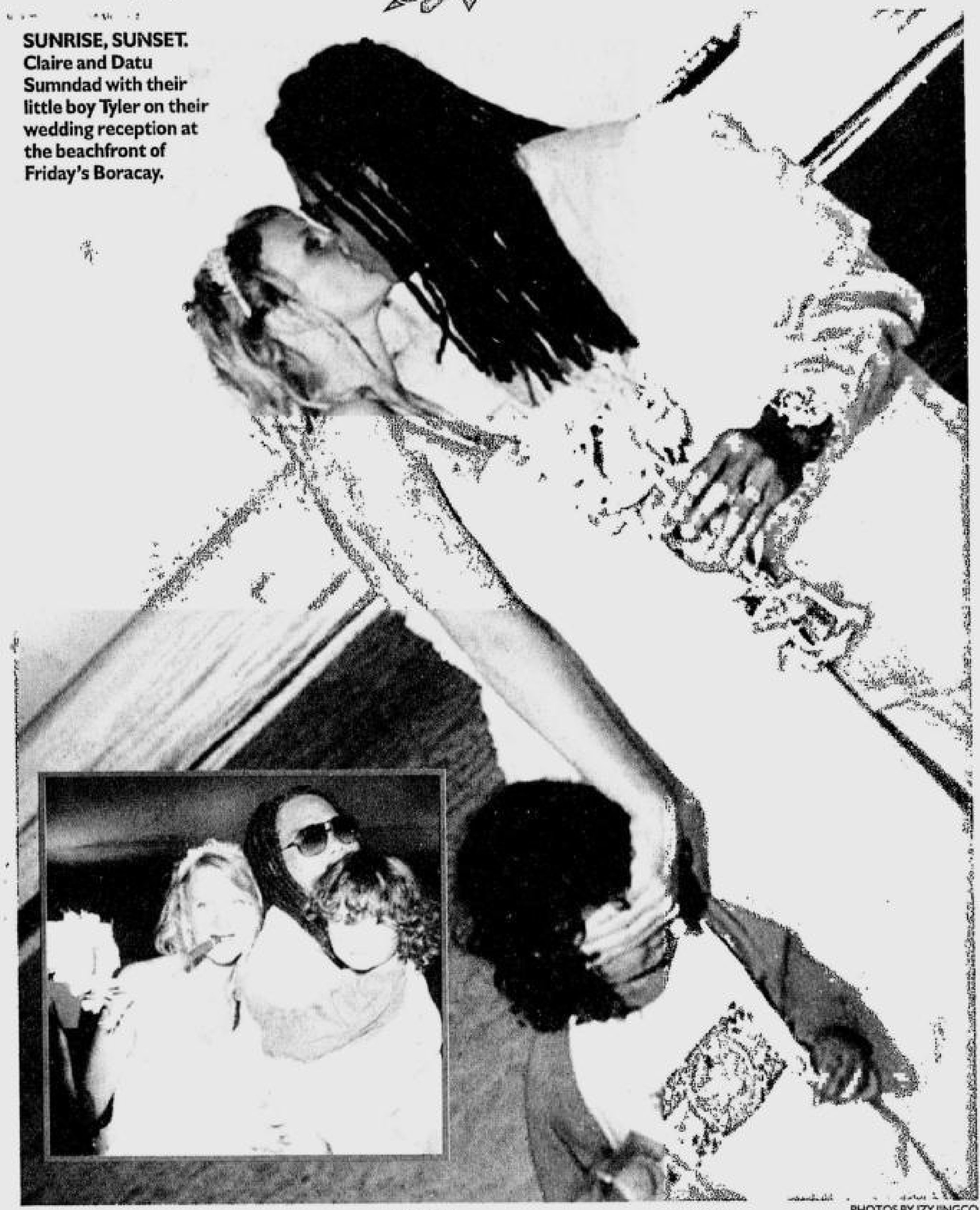


SUNRISE, SUNSET. Claire and Datu Sumndad with their little boy Tyler on their wedding reception at the beachfront of Friday's Boracay.

PHOTOS BY IZY JINGCO

Who's your Datu?

Tim Yap

IT WAS A WEDDING like no other.

The groom, in full bling and barong Tagalog, led the bridal entourage as they marched down the aisle to an Outkast song. His best man was a world renowned Pinoy DJ and his groomsmen a hodgepodge of scenesters all in different shades of eyewear.

The bride floated down the church's red carpet in a flowing white wedding dress, already seven months pregnant, as the parish priest warmly welcomed her. Her young son served as the ceremony's ring bearer.

Last month, right smack in the middle of the month of hearts, Boracay royal "it" couple **Datu** and **Claire Sumndad** exchanged solemn "I dos" amidst a sea of dreadheads and funked out hipsters from all over the world.

The Boracay Parish Church was witness to a gathering of happy people celebrating a happy couple. Claire's folks from the UK all flew in to join the bride during this day of blissful union. Boracay's **Yap** and Sumndad clans were in full force. From politicians like **Pichay** to entertainers like **Andrew E.**, it was one power-packed house who applauded the well-loved couple as they made their way out of the church.

The reception at Friday's was one for the books—after cigar and champagne cocktails and dinner, the longest and grandest ever fireworks display lit up the Boracay sky. Not even New Year's Day could compare to the parade of colors that streaked the nightscape.

Countless after-wedding parties were thrown. In fact, they are still partying now.

Cheers, Datu and Claire!

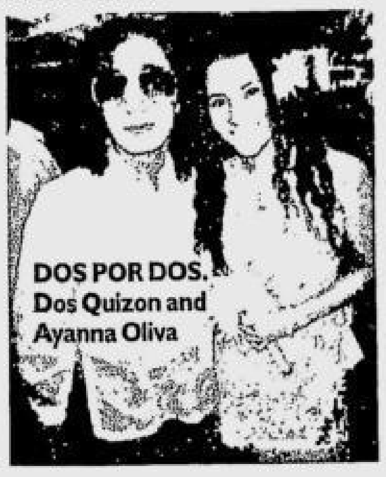
DATU Yap-Sumndad, Boracay's "It" boy gets married

PIED PIPER. Noel de Brackinghe wins best barong

ESCONDIDO Greg Keiser

MALAYA KA!

BORGY AND FLEX. Borgy Man and Ornusa Cad



DOS POR DOS. Dos Quizon and Ayanna Oliva

ANDREW E is ready *na*

S-FILED. Steve Tirona's sassy style

CHEERS, Y'ALL! Party all the time for Datu and Claire

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style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Yes, we are a nuisance!

We have fought for freedom because our survival depends on it

By Patrick Reyno

AT A HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL I once visited were inscripted the words:

"Never shall we forget the indifference of people who made so much human suffering possible."

It is in the spirit, that, I, a private and apolitical citizen feel compelled to write this letter to protest the declaration of Danton Remoto, a representative of the gay, lesbian and bisexual community, as a 'nuisance' in the upcoming congressional elections, while proclaiming the candidacies of so many of lesser qualifications as valid.

The quote above refers of course to the Jewish holocaust, but we as a community, have suffered the same fate, through AIDS, which now affects mostly women, children and the poor who have no access to proper medication. Yes, no one cared while it was only our community that was being decimated because we were a 'nuisance'. And now it affects communities who are equally marginalized and powerless. Was that Christian?

And yet, what have we done? We have colored your lives. We, as a community have contributed so much to the arts, music, film, theater, fashion, to make life worthwile, to make it beautiful; to make you laugh and cry, to act as your conscience. We fill a special role in the community, because we have nothing to lose; for many of us, we are not , motivated by greed because we have no one to pass any wealth to. And thus, many of us have served society in any small way we can.

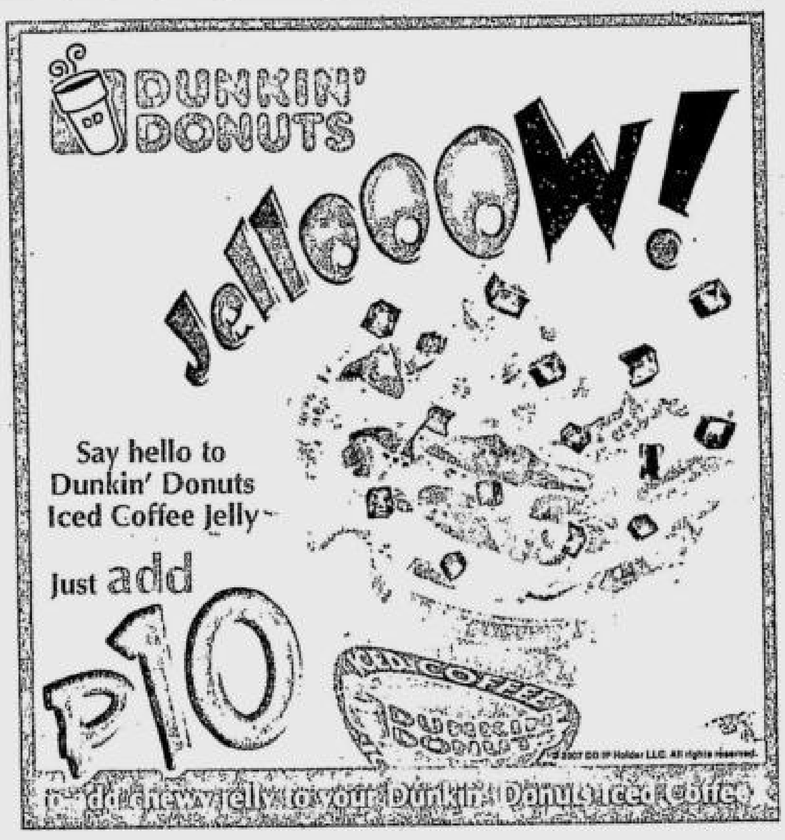
> **I, a private and apolitical citizen feel compelled to write this letter to protest the declaration of Danton Remoto, a representative of the gay, lesbian and bisexual community, as a 'nuisance' in the upcoming congressional elections, while proclaiming the candidacies of so many of lesser qualifications as valid**

I will not even start to enumerate the grand names of art, literature, theater, film, music, history, business, who belong to our community and have made a huge difference in this world. We have fought for freedom because our survival depends on it. We know how it feels to be opressed. And yes, we are a nuisance.

One does not even have to think grand, because many of us are just very humble people, but I dare you to look back and think: was there perhaps a gay teacher who taught you how to add? Who cured you so that you may be well? And yes, who arranged flowers to bring a smile to your face? We are everywhere; we are your brother, your sister, your neighbor, your friend.

We do not ask for special treatment; we simply ask for dignity, repspect and equal rights. I am reminded of a quote from Solzhenitsyn, which read: "Once you have taken everything from a man, you have lost all power over him, you have set him free."

And so by denying this right of representation to us as a community, so have you set us free. I call on all my brethren, to protest this injustice in any way you can, and never again to allow so much unnecessary human suffering possible.



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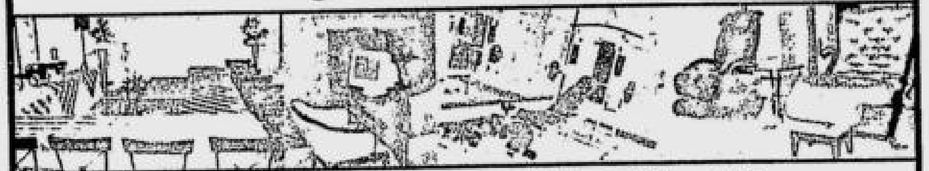

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The last word on words

I
NY
CARIFORNIA

RIVE from Ros Angeres, it's Satulday night!

"Language is the armory of the human mind; and at once contains the trophies of the past and the weapons of the future."—**Samuel Taylor Coleridge**

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A RUN-OF-the-mill computer screen filter. The typo-heavy box in which it came, however, suggested otherwise. It read:

"Speed™. Speed Up The World. Computer Looking Saver. Computer Radition Protection Screen. Characteristics: Eliminate radiation and static electricity for maximum probability. Filtering computer dizzy ray which causes headache and eyes unwell. Made in China."

What the? It was like my vision was swaggering its way to a glaucoma after-party. It also seemed like I was missing out on the latest literary trend, deranged technology haiku. Either way, it was clear that the "computer dizzy ray" from my standard-issue pseudo-corporate PC totally caused my "eyes unwell." And there I was, thinking it was hours of looking at not-safe-for-work pics of Lindsay Lohan's, uhm, "fire crotch" that triggered the visual-narrative gap.

It was, like, time to investigate.

"Transliteratio … er"

For some reason, the short horizon of jobs I've held down lately have more or less involved languages. First, I've taught English in Shakira's Latin America. Next, I've moonlighted as a Spanish-English market research translator. Last, I've totally mingled with preppy SoCal teen zombies while pretend-working at American Eagle Outfitters. But none of those behind-

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

the-scenes skillz-nada-prepared me for my current position as an insider in the ESL world.

Day after scintillating day since late last year, I've been sorta racking my brains as an English proficiency rater at a Korean-owned company. The pay is sweet, the boss is never in town, and the job is a stand-up comic's punchline goldmine.

Aside from developing blindingly easy English grammar questions for use in The Land of Kimchi, a huge chunk of my job also includes grading Korean, American, South African, and Australian pilots—among others—and their ability to converse in aviation English. I listen, I evaluate, and sometimes, I laugh. Hard. So hard that I slap my knees bloody. But I'm not trying to be mean when I do that. I just can't help cracking up. Really, it's magic. Correction: It's a magic. You'll find out why and how later on.

East infection

Hands down, the most dazzling bloopers I've heard are by well-meaning Korean pilots and air traffic controllers. On the one hand, I give them mad, mad props for dedicating hundreds of hours to study English and fu

On the other, I occasionally

tried way, way harder. And

mean most of them. For exan

American Interviewer: So

your birthday was two weeks

Korean Pilot: Yes.

American Interviewer: H

brate your birthday?

Korean Pilot: Yes.

American Interviewer: O

say, what did you do on your

Korean Pilot: Oh, yes. I ha

wife … with my brother!

American Interviewer: (

chuckle) So it was just the th

Korean Pilot: Yes.

American Interviewer: (I

laugh)

Obviously it's more hilari

read, but you sorta get the

that for your benefit, the y

newspaper semi-readers. An

mixing references, there's a

for this Borat-goes-Asian br

glish: *Engrish*. Very nice!

The Far Yeast

Like one giant sic, *Engrish*

for humorous English mista

Japanese advertising and pr

majority of the really funny a

is from Japan. According to

site, Engrish.com, however.

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LONDON BRIDGE. Paolo Reyes and Vicky Marchadesch

BURBERRY BRATS. Camille Villar and Vanessa Pastor

LONDON CALLING. Luxasia's Chris Yam and Carlo Tadiar

JETSET DUO. Mia Cuenca and Liza Ilarde enjoy their Burberry Brit.

CINDERELLA SCENTS. Marielle Santos and Isha Andaya

Enter the Brit pack

METRO STOP. Cat Juan, Jackie Antonio and Sam Yeh.

THE QUEEN MOTHER would have approved.

Designer Christopher Bailey is the prince of all things Brit. After regurgitating the brand that is Burberry with his Prorsum line, he now injects a distinctly English signature with Burberry Brit scentsibilities. One whiff transports you onto the streets of London.

Manila's media style set welcomed Burberry Brit, launched here by the ladies behind Luxasia over afternoon tea and scones.

Burberry Brit—bloody *kewl*.

Tim Yap

SCENTSATIONAL TRIO. Maureen Dishni, Patrick Ty and Corin Alegre at the Burberry Brit launch.

MAXIM MANIA. Kari Manuel, Rovilson Fernandez

Not-

BEHIND CLOSED BATHROOM doors, a few good girls shared some of their past lives' ugly tales.

Sophia* (not her real name) said that she was fat growing up and her brother would tease her mercilessly. "It made every day hell. I was so insecure with my physical appearance even until college."

Another girl, Karin, confessed that when she was younger, she had big, crooked teeth, and people called her *"panget"* and *"kabayo."* Her sister Mandy echoed off, saying that since big teeth are in their genes, she was called a rabbit, but the name-calling didn't stop there. "I had big hands, they called me 'E.T.' I had big feet and a small frame, they called me 'Tweety Bird.'" (Hmm … these girls had some real *biatches* for classmates!)

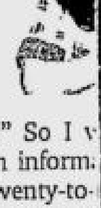
Angel grew up being called *"pango"* all her life by her own mother and father.

Then there's Paula, who said that she was so insecure about being dark while growing up, an "anomaly" considering she was from a mestizo family. "That's why I'm so against whitening products today, girls think that being dark is a bad thing!"

Fat, ugly, dark, buck-toothed, *"pango"* … you'd think I was hosting an Ugly Girls Anonymous convention. But *au contraire*—these girls are actually beautiful, intelligent girls whom you've probably seen on TV or magazines as commercial models.

See, I took the cue from that Dove commercial, the one that plays the tear-jerking "True Colors" song while showing glimpses of little girls and their true confessions: "Thinks she's ugly;" "Afraid she's fat" and

OUT THE WINDOW



Tals Diaz

"Hates her dark skin." So I v

enough to do my own inform

research among twenty-to-

things and discovered that prac

girl I spoke with had crazy han

their looks when they were g

And it doesn't help that at that

pressionable age, you're surr

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creating really mean nicknam

kill any shred of self-esteem.

Mind and media

Is media the culprit? Well,

fashion magazine on a rack an

any page, and there they are

thin, flawless, fair women p

back at you. In fact, psychologi

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natural instinct for young girls

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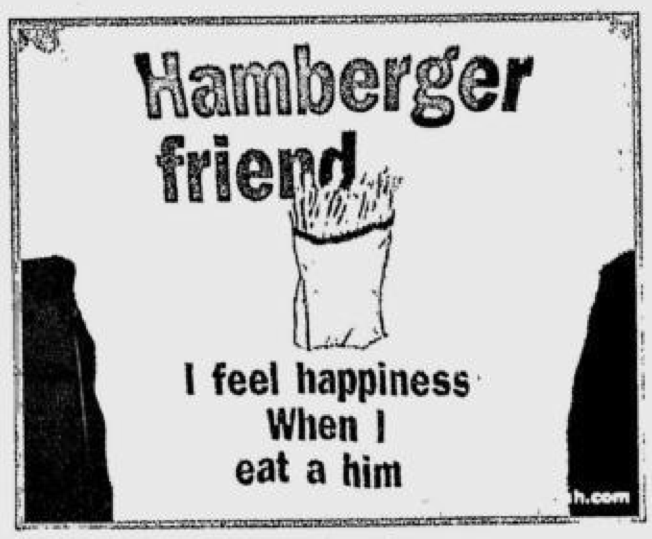
Engrish can definitely be found all over the world. China, Taiwan, and yes, Korea, are also home to native *Engrish* speakers.



GOOD for a you!

Huge phonetic and grammatical differences between English and Japanese, Chinese, and Korean have resulted in common errors. The inability to differentiate between "r" and "l" sounds, for example, have made Eric Clapton "Eric Crapton," fried rice "fly lice," and election "erection." The word "Engrish" itself is a product of this disconnection. (There's also Itarian, Gelman, and Flancais. Sulplise!)

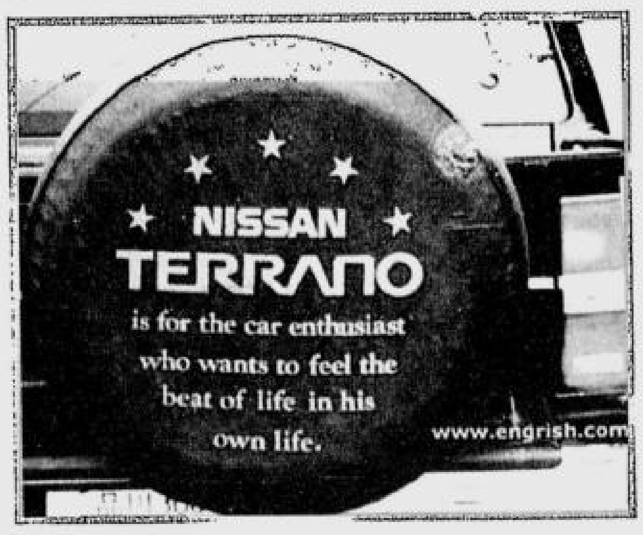
Another gray spot is the pronunciation of "shi" (or "shee") vs "see." I thought only Koreans say "shituation" in place of "situation," but it turns out, there are variations of this all over Engrish.com. (I dare you to say "Sit down" or "baby-sitter" in Engrish.)

The English-speaking world is ch-ch-changing and everyone's part of the evolution

On the grammar side, everyday blunders that ESL teachers notice in East Asia include students using a noun as a verb with "Let's," as in "Let's beer!" or my other favorite, "Let's sex!" Imagine if they took this zeal and translated it to fashion. Wait. OMG. They already did.

Back away from the thesaurus

If you're really observant like me, you would have, at some point, encountered *Engrish* slogans slapped on a variety of Asian-made products. Inasmuch as it's easy to imagine that head-trauma victims with a thesaurus brought those senseless "I Love Hamburger" pencil cases into being, it's not exactly the case. Engrish.com says, "English is used as a design element in Japanese products and advertising to give them a modern look and feel (or just to 'look cool')." You say fashion, I say funny.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TERRANO
is for the car enthusiast who wants to feel the beat of life in his own life.
www.engrish.com

ENGRISH.com thinks Nissan is promising too much here ...

It appears that there is often no attempt to try to get the language right. A majority of the non-English-speaking population doesn't care either, since they don't understand the English design element in question anyway. (Engrish.com cites a Japanese girl wearing a "Spread Beaver" shirt who had no idea what it meant until a foreigner pointed it out to her.) On the flipside, the same can be said about the nonsensical use of Japanese or Chinese characters on hats, shirts and tattoos in the US or Europe.

The future of global English

Jokes aside, I never realized how extremely lucky I was to have been born with the ability to speak, write, and understand English until I saw how so many people are struggling to learn a small portion of it. I mean, just ask me and other young native English speakers who have chosen Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) as cool ways to navigate the planet right after graduation. No doubt, those life experiences are less available to speakers of other lingos.

Of course, English is not without its frenemies. Native speakers of other languages have come to resent the steamroller effect of English on the global economy. What they need to understand though is the fact that English changes the world as the world changes it.

British think tank "for everyday democracy," Demos, has released an intriguing pamphlet, "As You Like It: Catching up in an age of global English." In it, authors Samuel Jones and Peter Bradwell argue that "English has developed around the world into something called 'global English,' which is best described as a family of language rather than one, single language with roots in one particular space."

Single
ERIC CRAPTON
エリック・クラプトン

"TEALS In Heaven," anyone?

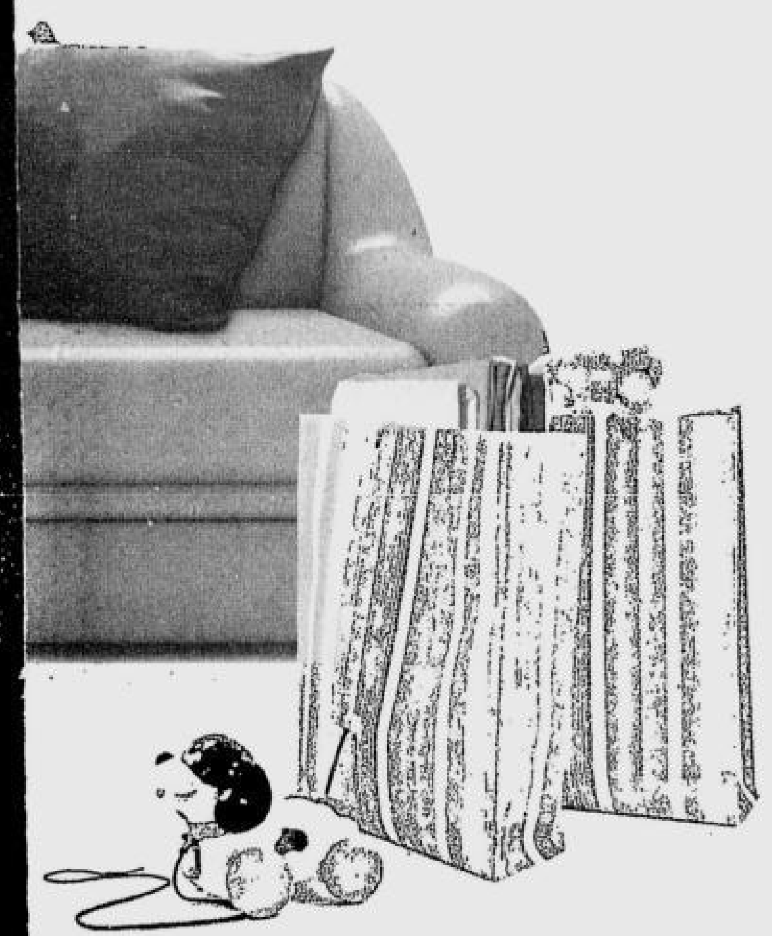
Ditch the dictionary?

Their most controversial move so far has been suggesting that everyone ditch the Oxford English Dictionary (OED). In its place, they propose a Wikipedia-like site, Democtionary.org, that would track the influence of non-native English speakers on the language.

In an interview with the Agence France Press, OED chief editor John Simpson countered by saying that Demos was trading on a rather outdated caricature of the Oxford English Dictionary. "We don't regulate English," Simpson said, "we describe it."

How this war of the words ends is still anybody's guess. One thing is undeniable though: We are living in an age in which English, in all its incarnations, has grown to become the world's lingua franca. Those who speak it, or want to speak it, are already ahead of the game. Word.

mmunity Soon to Rise!
experience at Angeles City, Pampanga.



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Beyond skin deep

One company today is listening to their shoulder angels by actually doing something about the relentless pressure on young girls to conform to unrealistic beauty standards. Last year, Dove launched the successful Campaign for Real Beauty wherein they showed girls of all levels in the beauty spectrum. A year later, they decided to probe even deeper into the problem and commissioned a global comprehensive study to explore the impact of beauty ideals on women's lives.

dove
self-esteem

Dove's Philippine study among Filipina girls aged 15 to 17 and Filipina women aged 18 to 64 showed quite alarming results. A whopping 95 percent of Filipina women today say they don't feel beautiful at all and want to change their looks. In fact, compared to other Asian countries, the Philippines scored significantly higher when it came to their physical hang-ups. More than half the girls surveyed said that whenever they feel bad about themselves, it was usually related to their looks and weight. When asked about skin color, Filipinas were shown to be the most unhappy with their skin tone among their Asian counterparts! This is even more pronounced among younger girls—in the Philippines, most girls start becoming concerned about their looks at age 14.

Global hunger

Around the world, self-image problems are becoming a deadly issue. Last February, 21-year-old Brazilian model Ana Carolina Reston died of generalized infections caused by anorexia nervosa, a disorder characterized by an abnormal fear of becoming obese. She weighed 88 pounds! (That's what happens when you gorge on a cabbage leaf for a week). In Uruguay, model Luisel Ramos died of heart failure during a fashion show in Montevideo in August of last year.

The global fashion world is starting to do something about it, first with Madrid banning excessively thin fashion models from their catwalks. Leading fashion houses like Zara, Cortefiel, Mango and chain store El Corte Ingles are also reacting to concerns that anorexia is on the rise. Madrid authorities even brought the fight against anorexia into cyberspace by forcing the closure of a website proclaiming that you're only in if you're thin.

Italy's government has also followed suit, volting in with fashion industry officials in a campaign against anorexic models, and committing to add larger sizes to collections so young women can see that bigger can also be beautiful.

Though anorexia and bulimia are not quite serious problems among young girls in the Philippines, there remains a link, and that is low self-image, and thus the continued pressure to look good in order to conform to society's stringent beauty ideal. Low self-image, low self-confidence, *zero* personality.

Soap opera

Dove's studies have shown that having low self-esteem in those formative years between 6 and 17 have a lasting impact in girls' lives, and they may not reach their full potential once they reach adulthood.

Thus, going above and beyond the call of beauty, Dove has created The Dove Self-esteem Fund, a childhood beauty advocacy that encourages women's self-esteem. Mikee Cojuanco takes the reins as the spokesperson, together with beautiful and successful women such as Raya Mananquil, Kate Torralba, Patricia Hizon, Liza Ilarde, and Super!'s very own Pam Pastor. Proceeds from Dove sales fund a special self-esteem workshop for young girls called BodyTalk, which directly speaks to young girls about their body issues. BodyTalk is the very first self-esteem workshop ever instituted in the country. It builds girls' positive self-esteem by teaching young girls to have a wider definition of beauty so that they may overcome their personal hang-ups, and may reach their full potential in later life.

Con girls

My two cents? I think healthy self-esteem starts with cultivating both mind and body. Take it from a friend of mine who once said, "who cares if the girl has a pretty face when she has the personality of a *paa?*" Really, if there's one thing that is so much sexier than a flawless face and a bitchin' bod, it's confidence. And a wicked sense of humor.

Log on to www.campaignforrealbeauty.ph to help out!

FIGURE this out

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Flip-flop Fancy

24/7

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

BEFORE YOU GET TANNED, TONED, and totally into the summer vibe, don't forget to sport a fun pair of flip-flops which you can match with your bikinis and boardshorts. Better yet, be creative and customize your own tailor-made *tsinelas*.

Just in time for the sun-kissed season, Havaianas Philippines brings back its much-awaited "Make Your Own Havaianas" extravaganza, which is ongoing at the North Court of the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell until Monday, March 26. This one-of-a-kind event has already successfully taken place in Paris, Sydney, New York, and Tokyo.

For a minimal fee of P795, you can get crafty and choose from an extensive assortment of straps, soles, colors, pins, embellishments, and even some Swarovski bling! Once you're done, the helpful Havaianas staff will assemble your special pair on the spot. For inquiries, visit www.havaianasphilippines.com.

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March 24, Saturday

MTV's Reggae Fest by the Bay feat. Ziggy Marley at Sofitel Philippine Plaza (4 p.m.); DJs Jon Naval at Jed Dario at and Manolet Dario at Warehouse 135; Slinky: TransAtlantik feat. DJ Marc Vedo at World Trade Center; 4th Anniversary Party at Absinth; Tribute to APO w/ Orange & Lemons, Itchyworms, Moonstar88 & The Dawn at Metro Bar; Spanish Cheese & Cuisine at Instituto Cervantes; Sino Sikat?, Radioactive Sago Project, and Nyko Maca + Playground at Saguijo; DJs Karl Ty & Marie Garcia at Fiamma; Latin House w/ Tribo Manila at Mezze; Siesta w/ Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Rouge: Lounge in Color at M Café ; DJs Jon Herrera & Tolo Bote at Temple; Bacardi Bling at Vida Malate; DJ Scratchmark at Prince of Jaipur; K 24/7 at Club O

March 25, Sunday

Tanghalang Pilipino 20th Anniv Gala at CCP Main Theater; Come Dance With Us at CCP Little Theater; Nuevo Ritmo at Café Havana Greenbelt; Concertino at Azzurro Linden Suites; Jazz Sunday Brunch at M Café

March 26, Monday

Johnny Alegre Affinity at Mag:net Café; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt; Happy Mondays w/ Borgy Manotoc at Embassy Cuisine; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ RO at Gweilos Makati; Chemical Underground at Absinth; Retro Nights at Azzurro Linden Suites ; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah!; Michael Angeló at Conspiracy

March 27, Tuesday

Javadelic w/ Bo Razon at Mag:net Café; Kate Torralba, Cambio, Rinka & Collective at Saguijo; The Bloomfields at Strumm's; Lounge Night w/ Zenaida Celdran at Mezze; Cuisine Royale w/ DJ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; '80s & '90s Night w/ DJ Jeff at Temple; DJs Erwin Edralin & Patch at Absinth; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Open Mic Night at Club O; Piano Nights at Azzurro Linden Suites; Bagong Dugo at Conspiracy; Rica Arambulo at Makati Shangri-La Lobby

March 28, Wednesday

Drip & Saxophoro at Mag:net Café; Nyko Maca + Playground at Mag:net Café Katipunan; MYMP at Club O; Terno Inferno at Saguijo; Cocoy Laurel at CCP; Lush: Smooth Rn'B at Fiamma; Keep on Dancing w/ DJ Boyet Almazan at Mezze ; W Wednesdays w/ DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; The Bloomfields at Eastwood City; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Live Rock Bands at Temple; Willy Wanka's Music Factory at Gweilos Makati; DJs Kimozave & Chrismyx at Prince of Jaipur; Jazz Night at Mag:net Café; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt; Noel Cabangon at Conspiracy; Dejavu '90s Night w/ DJ David Ardiente at Coquina

March 29, Thursday

Raymond Lauchengco: Classic Romance at Teatrino Greenhills (8:30 p.m.); Kamikazee, Callalily & 6cyclemind at Metro Bar; Romancing Venus, Narda, Blast Ople, Analog, Chillitees, and Drip at Saguijo; La Luna Loca w/ Tribo Manila at Mezze; Brown Suggah Soul w/ Jermaine Brown (Toronto) at M Café; Fluxxe: Whatever Thursdays at Absinth; Chocolate Buffet Night at Paseo Uno; Worldwide Thursdays w/ Soundsgood at Nuvo; SPIT at Mag:net Café; Backtrack Thursdays at Club O; World's Fastest Open Bar at Bed; Radio Coquina at Coquina; Susan Fernande & Albert de Pano at Conspiracy; Coffeebreak Island at Dapo; Rica Arambulo at Makati Shangri-La Lobby; Reggae Mistress at Café Havana Greenbelt

March 30, Friday

Mon David at Mag:net Café ; Nyko Maca + Playground at The Room Upstairs; Matilda, Triggerbliss, Romancing Venus Girls, Taken By Cars, Nityalila, and The Dorques at Saguijo; Sala Ibiza w/ DJ Karl Ty atNuvo; Latin Connection atPiedra; The Bloomfields at Club O; Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; DJ Tony Pavia at Mezze ; House Sessions at Fiamma; MyHOUSE w/ DJ Elian at M Café; MILF: Mom I Love Fridays! at Absinth; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; Soul Shine w/ DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; Jive w/ DJs Darrel & McDash at Temple; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; DJs Scratchmark & Bcal at Prince of Jaipur; Gogo Fridays at Bed; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt; Nuevo Ritmo at Café Havana Malate; Joey Ayala at Conspiracy; House@Home w/ DJ David Ardiente at Coquina

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 GIGS through your mobile phone and send to 2851 (Globe) and 2951 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 NOCTURNAL NAVIGATOR at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Tuesday to events@mag24-7.com, mag24_7@yahoo. com, and Nocturnal-Navigator@gmail.com.

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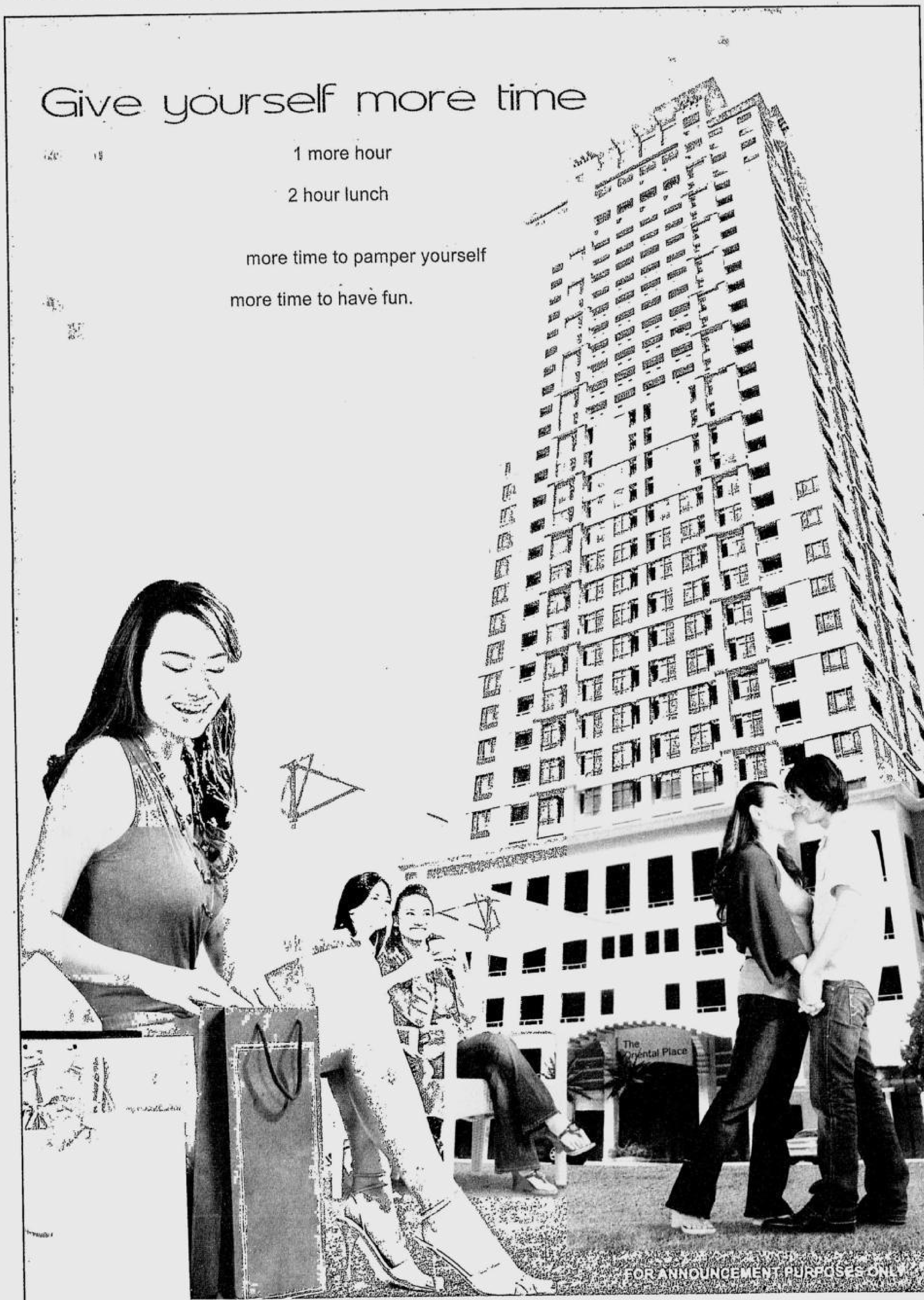

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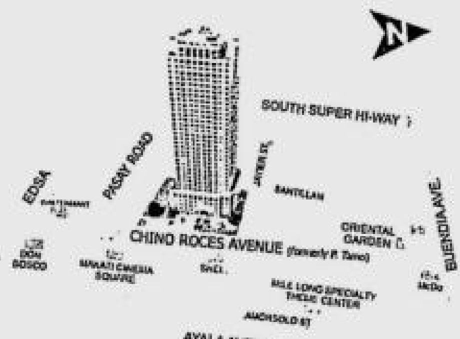

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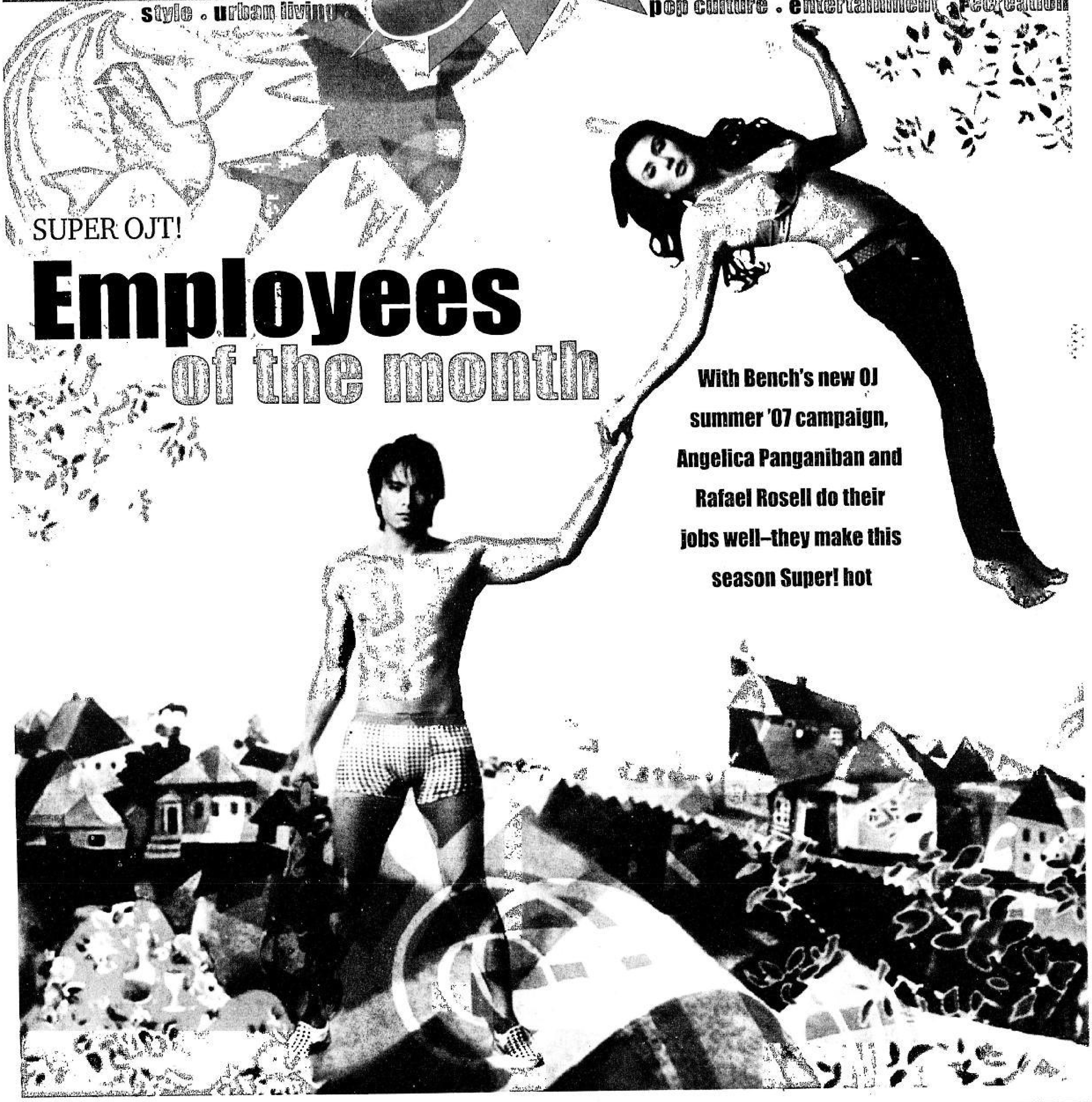
Text us your feedback: inquirer sup name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



SUPER OJT!

Employees of the month

With Bench's new OJ summer '07 campaign, Angelica Panganiban and Rafael Rosell do their jobs well–they make this season Super! hot

FROM JAILBAIT TO SEXPOT. Angelica is ready to reveal more.

By Paolo Lorenzana

IT'S A DIRTY JOB, BUT SOMEone's gotta do it. To get people to look at you, much more talk about you, smoldering obliviously above overpasses and highways, granting traffic a more-than-ample view of your anatomical "goods." It's a job that involves garnering stare-fueled heat from magazine stands and more so from Internet traffic; the process of stealthily creeping into the cultural consciousness as an object of lust, speculation and overall fascination that Angelica Panganiban and Rafael Rosell have craftily executed in the past year or two.

On-the-Job Temptation

The hard time both put in doesn't seem as grueling when you encounter their lacquered displays along Edsa. But then one of the quickest ways to pop stature in this country-stripping down to your skivvies for big, bad Bench-is like selling your soul to celebrity one discarded article of clothing at a time. And when "Angel" clipped her wings and transformed from mild-mannered jailbait to precocious sexpot, she knew what she was doing all along. Being immersed in the biz since tweenhood and harboring a zen-like recognition of her body, Angelica knew that a lifestyle company that makes everything from towels to thongs seem purchase-worthy can instantly catapult a fledgling child star to celebrity relevance. "*Kasi yung showbiz, parang lalaki yan na nangloloko,*" Angelica says, chuckling mischievously. "*Hindi pwede puro galing lang sa acting—kailangan lumaban ka. Kasi ang dami*

EMPLOYEES/ F4

MALE ORDER. Rafael sizzles this summer.

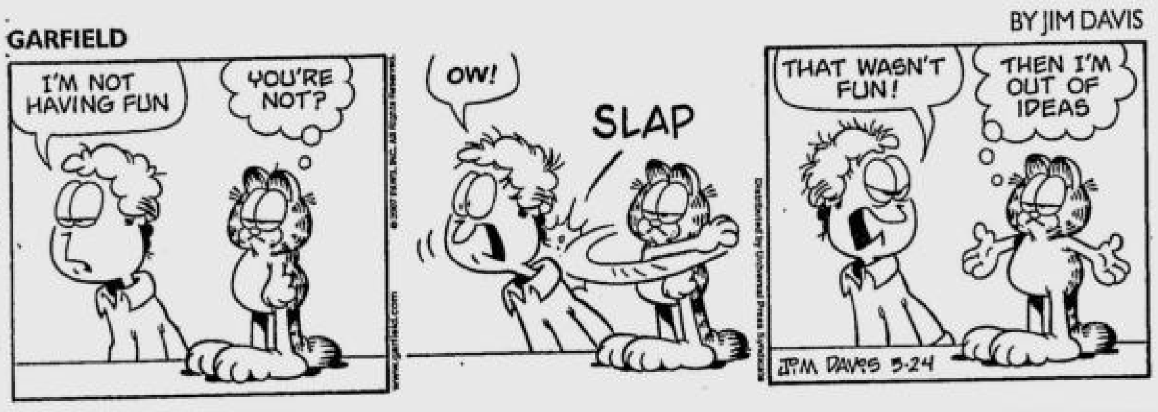
Produced by: TIM YAP
Photography: MARK NICDAO of WildBunch
Styling: NOEL MANAPAT
Sitting Editor: DAVID MILAN
Hair and Makeup: STEVEN DOLOSO
Cover Stars: RAFAEL ROSELL and ANGELICA PANGANIBAN in Bench OJ summer '07 collection

ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

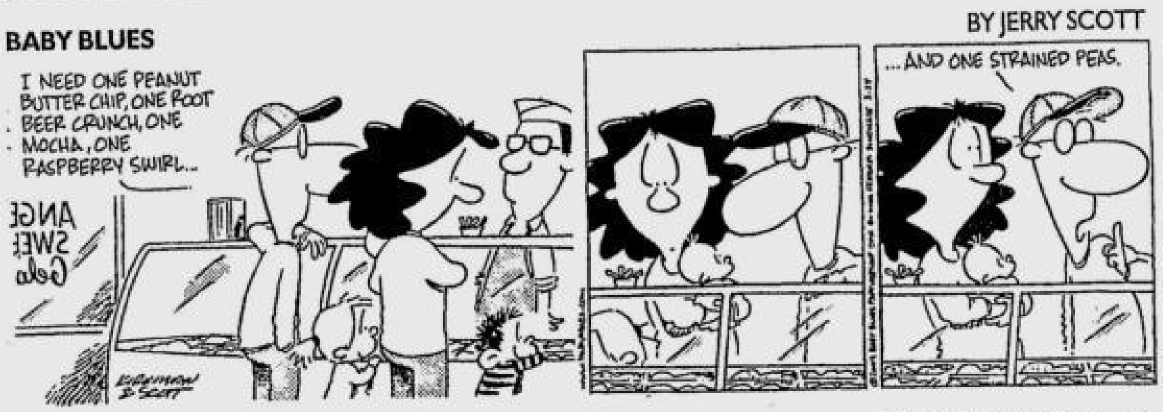
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


I'M NOT HAVING FUN
YOU'RE NOT?
OW!
SLAP
THAT WASN'T FUN!
THEN I'M OUT OF IDEAS
JIM DAVIS 3-24

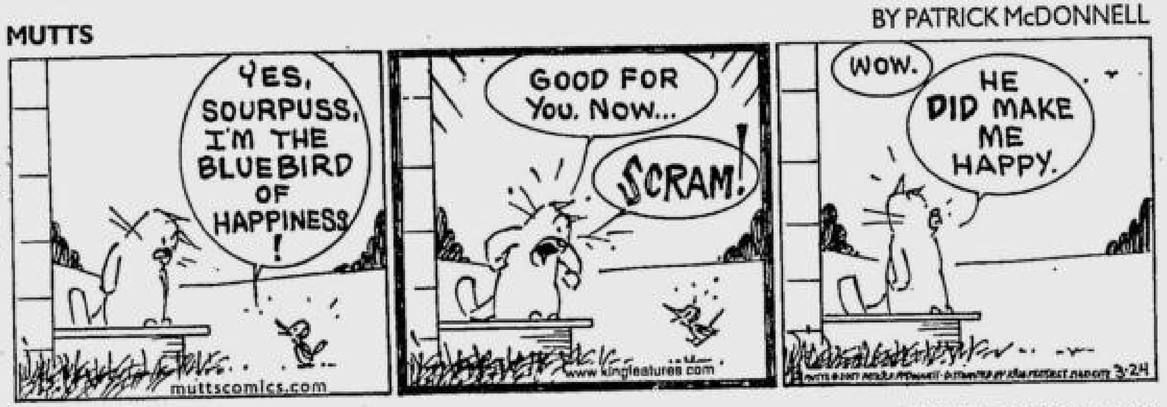
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I NEED ONE PEANUT BUTTER CHIP, ONE ROOT BEER CRUNCH, ONE MOCHA, ONE RASPBERRY SWIRL...
...AND ONE STRAINED PEAS.

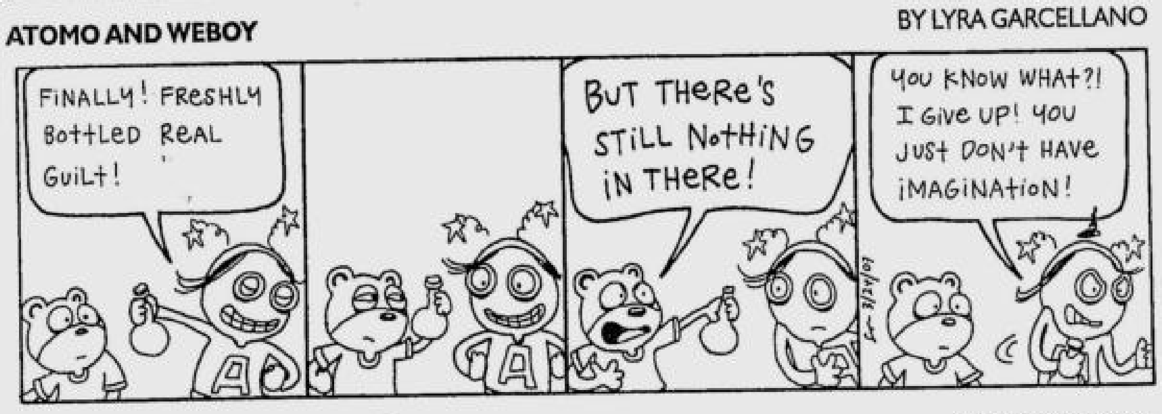
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YES, SOURPUSS, I'M THE BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS!
GOOD FOR YOU. NOW...
SCRAM!
WOW.
HE DID MAKE ME HAPPY.
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
3-24

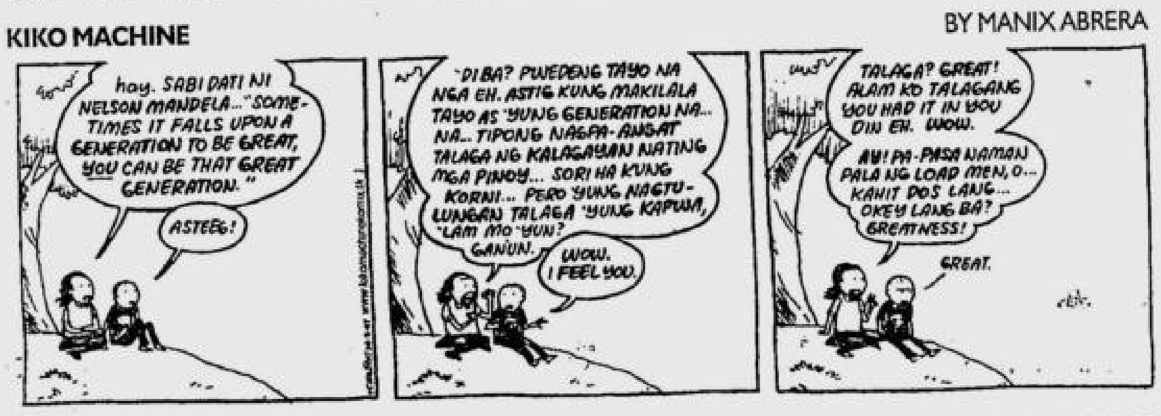
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


FINALLY! FRESHLY BOTTLED REAL GUILT!
BUT THERE'S STILL NOTHING IN THERE!
YOU KNOW WHAT?! I GIVE UP! YOU JUST DON'T HAVE IMAGINATION!

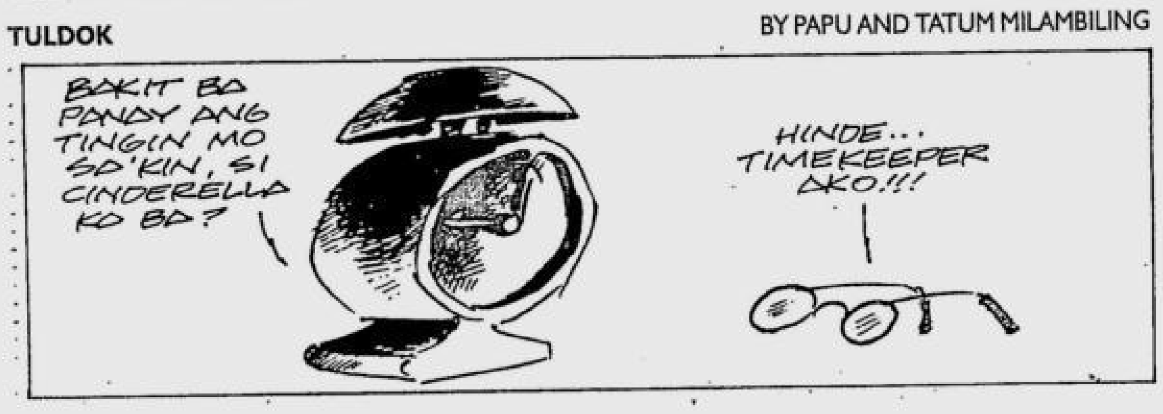
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hoy. SABI DATI NI NELSON MANDELA..."SOMETIMES IT FALLS UPON A GENERATION TO BE GREAT, YOU CAN BE THAT GREAT GENERATION."
ASTEEG!
"DI BA? PWEDENG TAYO NA NGA EH. ASTIG KUNG MAKILALA TAYO AS 'YUNG GENERATION NA.. NA.. TIPONG NAGPA-ANGAT TALAGA NG KALAGAYAN NATING MGA PINOY... SORI HA KUNG KORNI... PERO YUNG NAGTULUNGAN TALAGA 'YUNG KAPWA, 'LAM MO 'YUN? GANUN.
WOW. I FEEL YOU.
TALAGA? GREAT! ALAM KO TALAGANG YOU HAD IT IN YOU DIN EH. WOW.
AY! PA-PASA NAMAN PALA NG LOAD MEN, O... KAHIT DOS LANG... OKEY LANG BA? GREATNESS!
GREAT.

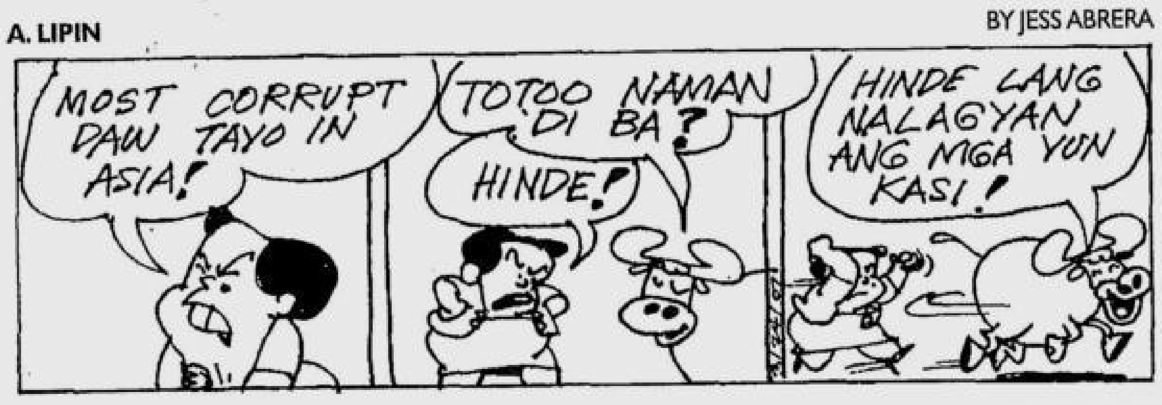
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT BA PANDY ANG TINGIN MO SA'KIN, SI CINDERELLA KO BA?
HINDE... TIMEKEEPER AKO!!!

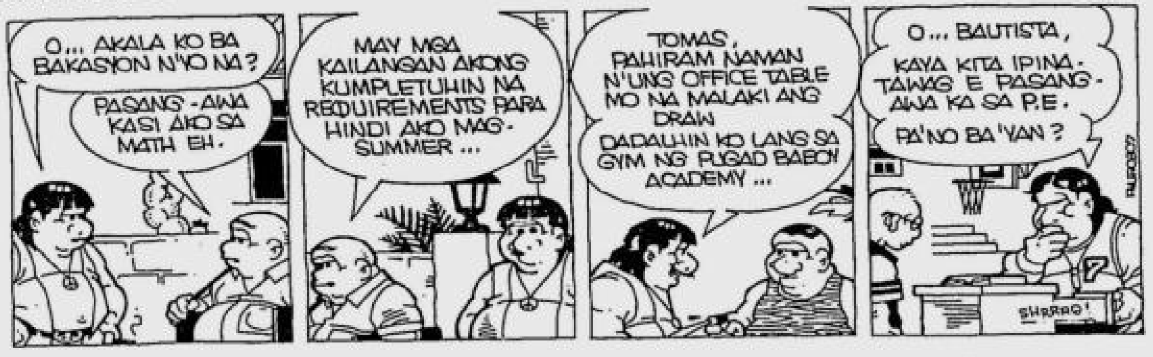
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MOST CORRUPT DAW TAYO IN ASIA!
TOTOO NAMAN DI BA?
HINDE!
HINDE LANG NALAGYAN ANG MGA YUN KASI!

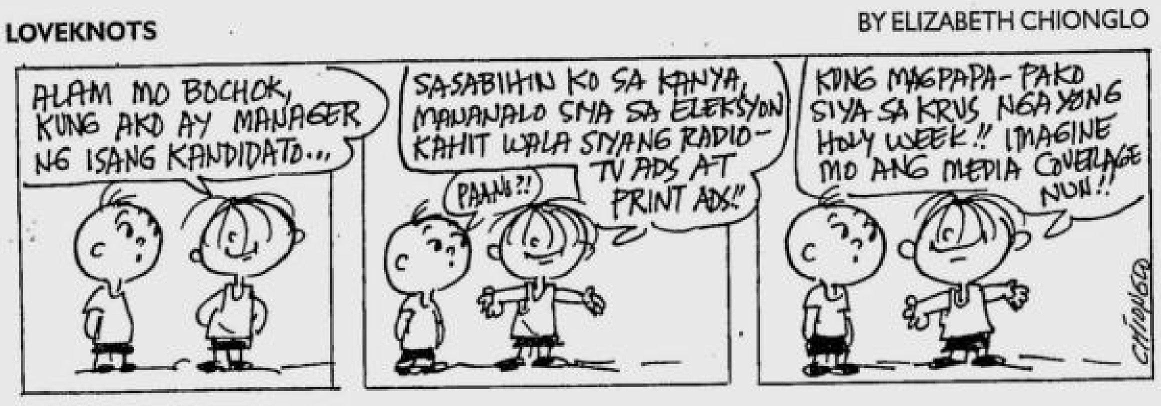
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


O... AKALA KO BA BAKASYON N'YO NA?
PASANG-AWA KASI AKO SA MATH EH.
MAY MGA KAILANGAN AKONG KUMPLETUHIN NA REQUIREMENTS PARA HINDI AKO MAG-SUMMER ...
TOMAS, PAHIRAM NAMAN N'UNG OFFICE TABLE MO NA MALAKI ANG DRAW
DADALHIN KO LANG SA GYM NG PUGAD BABOY ACADEMY ...
O... BAUTISTA, KAYA KITA IPINA-TAWAG E PASANG-AWA KA SA P.E.
PA'NO BA 'YAN?
SHRRRG!

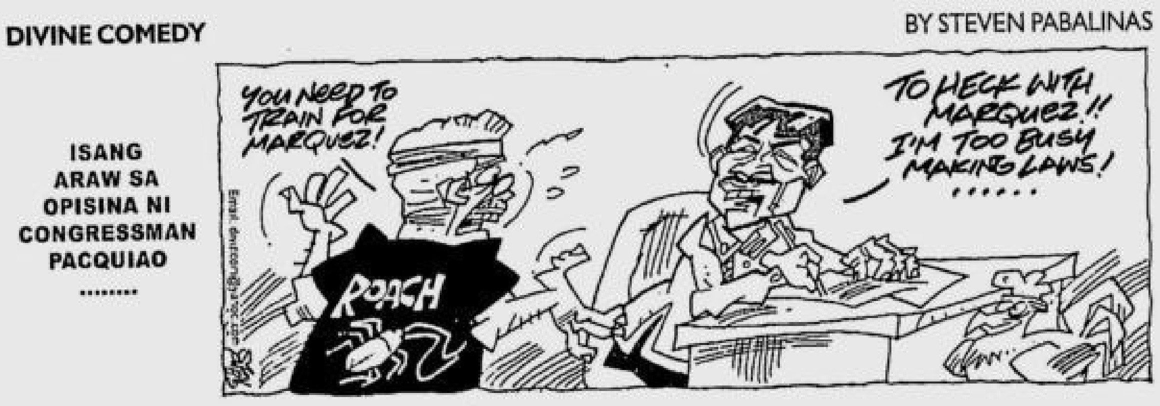
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO BOCHOK, KUNG AKO AY MANAGER NG ISANG KANDIDATO...,
SASABIHIN KO SA KANYA, MANANALO SIYA SA ELEKSYON KAHIT WALA SIYANG RADIO-TV ADS AT PRINT ADS!!
PAANO?!
KUNG MAGPAPA-PAKO SIYA SA KRUS NGAYONG HOLY WEEK!! IMAGINE MO ANG MEDIA COVERAGE NUN!!
CHIONGLO

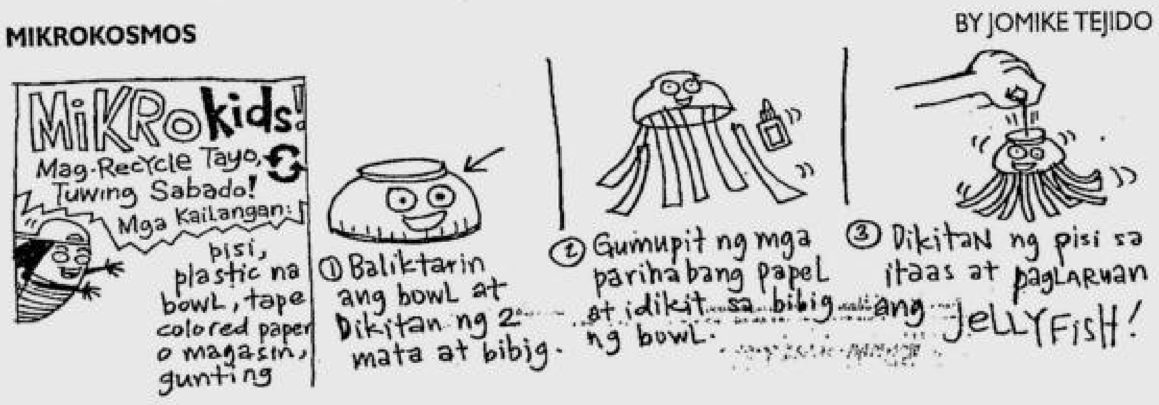
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ISANG ARAW SA OPISINA NI CONGRESSMAN PACQUIAO ....
YOU NEED TO TRAIN FOR MARQUEZ!
TO HECK WITH MARQUEZ!! I'M TOO BUSY MAKING LAWS! ......
ROACH

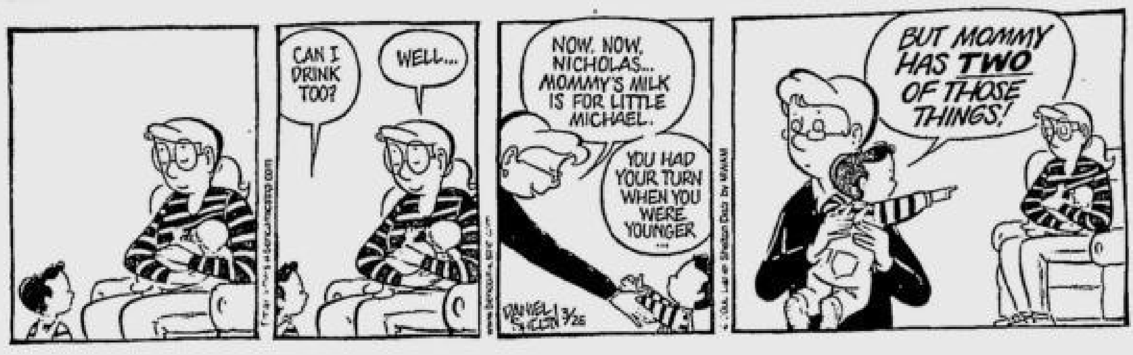
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

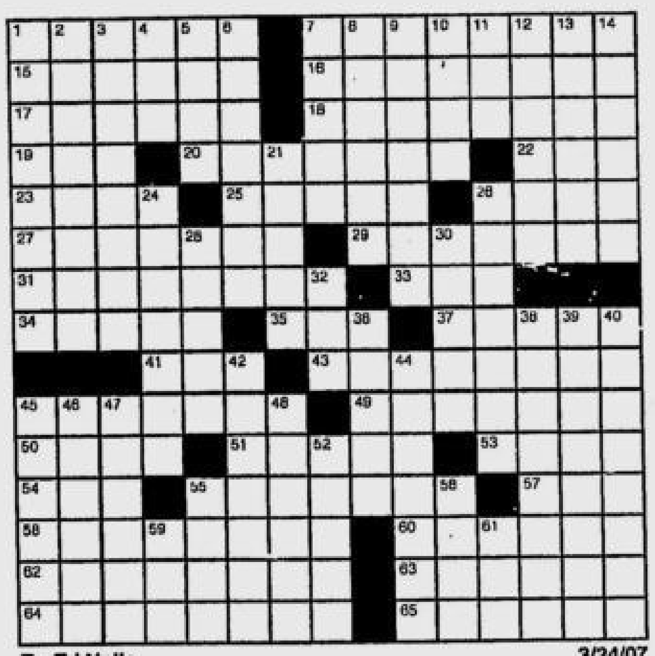

MiKRO kids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan: pisi, plastic na bowL, tape colored paper o magasin, gunting
① Baliktarin ang bowL at Dikitan ng 2 mata at bibig.
② Gumupit ng mga parihabang papeL at idikit sa bibig ng bowL.
③ Dikitan ng pisi sa itaas at paglaruan ang JELLYFISH!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


CAN I DRINK TOO?
WELL...
NOW, NOW, NICHOLAS... MOMMY'S MILK IS FOR LITTLE MICHAEL.
YOU HAD YOUR TURN WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER
BUT MOMMY HAS TWO OF THOSE THINGS!
DANIEL SHELTON 3/25

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Ed Voile
Gillette, WY

3/24/07

ACROSS
1 Forgo
7 Purified
15 Parthenon honoree
16 Flat pasta
17 Drop by
18 And so forth
19 Game of marbles
20 Fruit of the maple tree
22 Sine qua __
23 SDI concern
25 Shelters for sheep
26 Pretty soon
27 Options
29 Make saw-toothed
31 Itchy skin inflammation
33 German article
34 Cosmetician Lauder
35 Kisser or mush
37 Nasal partitions
41 Part of IRA
43 Unorthodox beliefs
45 Gives consent
49 Comes to rest
50 Fragrant ointment
51 Offshoot groups
53 Of sound mind
54 Bird from Down Under
55 U.S. Virgin Island
57 Fam. member
58 Social Security program
60 Hits, Biblically speaking
62 Repeats
63 "Honor Thy Father" author
64 Bejeweled headbands
65 Gulps of liquor

DOWN
1 Satirical creative work
2 Business cases
3 Hot dog
4 Cal. abbr.
5 Les Etats-__
6 Cure-all
7 Traction provider
8 Metric units
9 Sheathed
10 Mellows with time
11 Almond or cashew
12 Burnt brown pigment
13 Implant firmly
14 One of the Lennon Sisters
21 Velvety, as vegetation
24 Beveled edges for joining
26 Takes into custody
28 Words to live by
30 VCR button
32 I thought so!
36 Basil sauce
38 Pillar set into a wall
39 Superlatively small
40 Evaluates
42 Having a will
44 Puts up a struggle
45 Lacking in vitality
46 Revived
47 Less carefully created
48 Clandestine
52 Salad green
55 Give the once-over
56 Marvel superhero
59 Worldwide help grp.
61 Worldwide worker's grp.

Friday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	M	A		R	O	A	R		T	B	I	R	D
A	M	E	X		E	R	I	E		A	U	D	I	O
J	I	M	L	O	V	E	L	L		I	D	E	A	L
O	N	O		T	I	M		I	M	P	A	S	S	E
R	O	S	C	O	E		S	T	E	E	N			
			H	O	W	S	O		T	I	D	B	I	T
M	O	G	U	L		A	F	A	R		E	R	O	O
A	N	A	C	E	I	N	T	H	E	C	R	O	W	D
P	E	R	K		S	E	E	M		A	S	S	A	Y
S	A	Y	Y	E	S		S	E	G	N	O			
			E	X	U	L	T		R	A	N	C	O	R
M	A	N	A	T	E	E		A	I	R		R	A	E
A	D	A	G	E		W	I	L	E	Y	P	O	S	T
R	I	P	E	N		I	D	A	S		H	A	I	R
S	T	A	R	T		S	O	N	E		I	T	S	Y

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3/24/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're bold and direct, but also forthright. You go after what you want. You're also private and modest. You attack life with physical enthusiasm, but not in a flashy way. People respond warmly to your affectionate, kind nature. In the year ahead, you will finish something you have been involved with for nine years. It's time for new beginnings.

Birthdate of: Peyton Manning, football quarterback; Annabella Sciorra, actress; Steve McQueen, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): With the Sun in your sign now, you have good fortune with you. Therefore, go after what you want. Ask anything for which you want a "yes" answer.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Continue to work behind the scenes or on your own right now. Even though your ambition is aroused, work quietly on your own. You won't regret it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Friends and groups definitely can help you now. Be open to the suggestions of someone. Go along with group activities. This is not a time to go it alone.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Bosses and authority figures are easily impressed with you now. Just run with this. When people think highly of you, don't question it—just take a bow.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Make travel plans to go anywhere. (You need to get outta Dodge.) You're hungry to learn something new and have a little adventure in your life!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Work-related travel or even travel for pleasure will appeal to you now. Others sense your enthusiasm for things and are eager to talk to you. Good!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Now is the time to talk to partners about important subjects. Don't be afraid to state your case. Too often, you worry about rocking the boat, but you have rights, too.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Renovations, projects, residential moves or possibly domestic conflict have your hands full right now. Go slowly. Rome wasn't built in a day (in fact, they're still working on it).

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Sports, playful activities, romance and work with children are all rewarding choices for you now. Make time to enjoy yourself. (All work and no play made Jack's widow rich.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Focus on home and domestic activities now. Conversations with parents or relatives are important. Smooth over troubled waters.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Try to get more physical exercise right now—at least walking. Home decorating and entertaining will also please you today. Family relationships are much warmer and mutually caring.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good time to enter into partnerships or to sign contracts or agreements. Your bargaining skills are hot! Others are willing to listen to what you have to say, sell or teach.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

					8			
1		4						7
					6	5		
8					5	6	4	
	1			2			7	
	2	5	9					3
		3	2					
7						3		4
			5					

Difficulty Level ★★★★

3/24

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

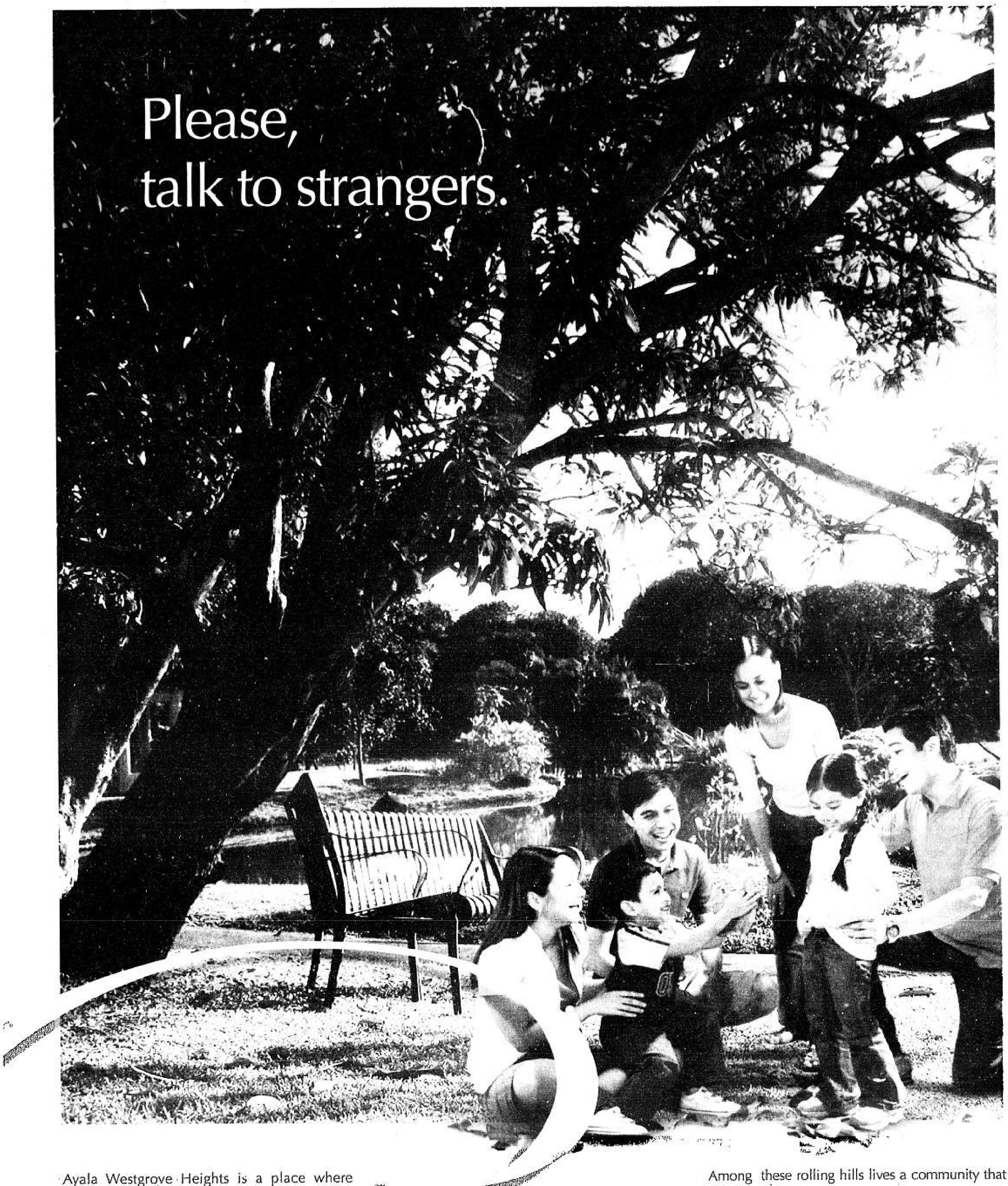
Answer to previous puzzle

8	4	6	1	5	3	9	7	2
7	5	1	2	6	9	3	4	8
9	2	3	7	8	4	5	6	1
2	8	5	4	3	1	6	9	7
1	7	4	6	9	8	2	5	3
6	3	9	5	7	2	8	1	4
3	6	7	8	4	5	1	2	9
4	9	2	3	1	6	7	8	5
5	1	8	9	2	7	4	3	6

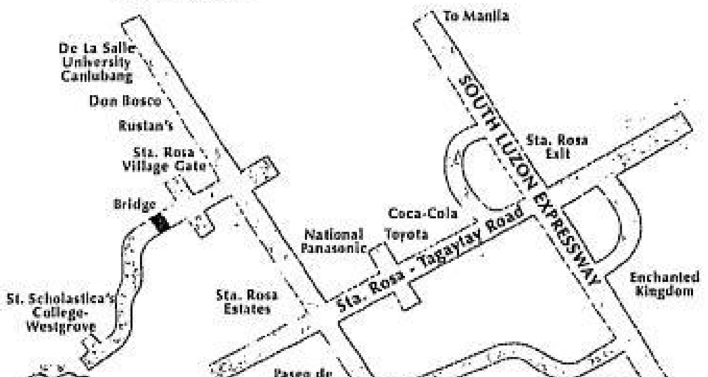
Difficulty Level ★★★★

3/23

AyalaLand PREMIER


Please,
talk to strangers.

Ayala Westgrove Heights is a place where neighbors are... well, neighborly. They know each other's names, they make play dates for their children and their interaction with each other is not limited to a curt nod over the hedge. This premium development is more than just its three clubhouses, enviable amenities and top-of-the-line sports facilities.


To Manila
De La Salle University Canlubang
Don Bosco
Ruslan's
Sta. Rosa Village Gate
Bridge
St. Scholastica's College-Westgrove
Sta. Rosa Estates
National Panasonic
Coca-Cola
Toyota
Sta. Rosa - Tagaytay Road
SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY
Sta. Rosa Exit
Enchanted Kingdom
Paseo de Sta. Rosa
To Tagaytay
South Luzon Medical Center
Greenfield ABI Exit
To Calamba

Among these rolling hills lives a community that actively arranges an array of activities allowing residents to meet, bond and share common interests. It is this warmth in the cool climes of Ayala Westgrove Heights that has attracted many to plant their roots. Because here, you'll discover that there is no such thing as strangers, just friends waiting to be met.

AYALA
Westgrove Heights

www.ayalalandpremier.com • 728-7000 • ask@ayalalandpremier.com

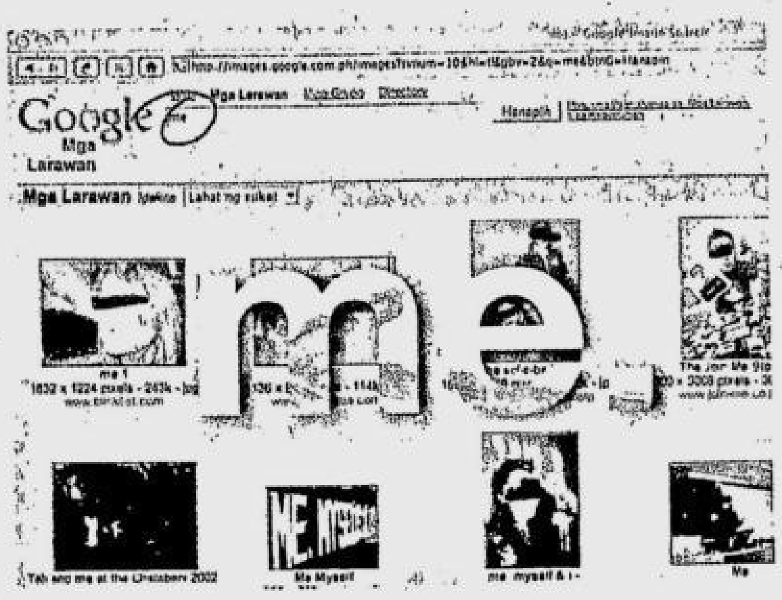
Visit our site any day, we're open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily.

LTS HLURB Nos. R4-99-08-0092, R4-99-08-0090, 01844-R4-00-05, 01883-R4-00-05, 08196-R4A-03-08

You and the Me Generation

By Pepe Diokno

A FEW MONTHS ago, Super took a look at our current crop of kids-us self-obsessed, camera phone whores and MySpace/Friendster addicts, collectively known as the "Me Generation." We wondered how, in a world full of problems, us kids manage to be detached from it all. Now, the generation has evolved since the last time we wrote about it. Today, a look at the Me generation doesn't just involve the issue of so-called apathy; the last few months have afforded us a clearer picture of a new youth ideology and aesthetic. The repercussions of these are big—not only for religion and society, but for media, advertising, and business as well. In a country where nearly half of the population is made up of kids, the failure of local media and business to relate to the youth—and change with technology—may mean big, big bucks.



In the First World, the Me Generation was born out of the Internet and consumer electronics. There, iPods, mobiles, BitTorrent, LimeWire, MySpace, YouTube and blogs have shown people that they do not need to rely on big content providers for media. Who needs soap operas when you can surf over to your friend's friend's blog and read about her teenage pregnancy? Who needs radio stations when you have music sites? Who needs TV when you have BitTorrent? Media providers have lost their power dictate where, how, and by whom their content is received; this power has been usurped by consumers. Now, consumers don't have to read through the newspaper anymore-they can get their news on their PDAs, filtered even, according to their interests. Now, consumers don't have to bend their schedule around watching the Grammys—in their free time, they can take note of the specific awards they're interested in and watch these segments on YouTube. So technology has changed the relationship between media providers and consumers: Media providers are no longer the hands that feed.

Of course, this isn't all happening around us in the Philippines. Here, kids still rely on TV and radio stations for their music and shows. And here, kids still buy into the celebrity greeting services their mobile providers offer. But the changes described in the paragraph above are inevitable. Technology will sooner or later empower Filipino youth-and sooner is more like it, in fact. The global Filipino (read: OFW) is fueling the growth of communication technology—not only because it is their money that buys consumer electronics, but also because of their demand for Filipino content. Take as an example the proliferation of the "Pinoy Big Brother" clips on YouTube—most of which are ripped from the ABS-CBN Now stream, a service that caters to Filipinos overseas. On the other hand, within the Philippines, even the ubiquitous call center is putting technology in the hands of young people at a rate as high as it can go in the Third World.

Me, me! ideology

Not only has technology given kids the power to consume and to dictate how they consume, but it has also given kids a few other uncanny abilities. The first of these abilities is the ability to operate independently. Kids have truly been emancipated from the grips of parental units. A recent survey by the World Wireless forum shows that the average age of the first-time mobile user is eight years old-imagine that at eight, they're on their own, communicating and making decisions. At age 8.

Kids have also been given the ability to define their image. On Friendster, they are given the tools to create their own identities outside of the confines of social status and physical appearance. The manliest of guys can now unabashedly declare their love for (the current) Britney Spears and shut out anyone who scoffs. Kids can really be themselves now and tell anyone who doesn't like it to, "go to hell" (of course that translates to, "Delete Testimonial"). An extreme version of "defining one's image" is in the Internet simulation world Second Life. There, users, called "residents," live in a literal metauniverse, where they look like 3D moving avatars-or humanoids. In this world, residents explore, socialize, even create and trade virtual property and services from one another. So in Second Life, kids not only create themselves, but also the universe they live in.

Lastly, and most importantly, kids have been given the power to produce. Mobile phones and notebook computers have allowed them to produce their own TV shows (which they post on YouTube), radio shows (podcasts), and publications (blogs). There are even sites on the Internet wherein users can design and sell T-shirts at no cost. With eBay, kids have become merchants. Nine-dollar.com registrations have allowed anybody with content to offer to become worldwide entrepreneurs. Even CNN is making use of these forms of user-produced content ("user-generated content" or UGC)—under the CNN iReport tagline, they now periodically show pictures and video clips taken by their viewers.

All these abilities have given rise to a new way of thinking: Kids of different generations have always struggled for independence from their elders, but today kids actually have the tools to be independent. They don't need you to tell them how to work things (they're the ones telling you how to work things). They don't need you to help them make decisions. They don't need you to tell them what they can or cannot do. Heck, they don't even need you to produce what they consume. That's why this generation is so obsessed with themselves, and hence the "Me Generation" moniker. There is this whole, "I have the power within me" ideology.

The Internet and consumer electronics are changing the way kids see the world. What does this mean for traditional media, advertising and business?

The new youth aesthetic

Kids are so busy. Like the mini-CEOs they feel like, they're presented possibilities and forced to make decisions everywhere they turn—Are you sure you want to shut down? This site is encrypted; continue? Who will you evict tonight on "Pinoy Big Brother"? Just the variety of content to choose from is overwhelming; Swedish music and Hollywood flicks are right in front of kid's noses.

All this bombardment has shaped a new youth aesthetic.

Generations give rise to new fashion, new styles, new music, new art-but then again, isn't all of that missing in today's generation?

Today's fashion is so heavily influenced by the 60s, 70s and 80s that it is impossible to say for sure what "a modern twist" is anymore. Even today's pop music is so blatantly recycled—I mean, influenced—there's the 50s-60s sound of Christina Aguilera and Gwen Stefani, the 80s sound of punk rock groups and punk poser Avril Lavigne. Locally, we've seen the success of tribute albums; even the tricks of our "edgier" acts aren't new either. Again, this recycling of styles is a product of the bombardment of information.

But now that the landscape of entertainment is so vast, can one style be considered representative of youth culture anymore? Is anything representative of a new youth aesthetic? No, because the new youth aesthetic is no aesthetic. Kids are flooded with so much information that they can't waste their time with the way things look; it's all about the content now. This is the main reason for Google's world domination-unlike all the other search engines, their search box was just there, and it was the only thing there. Google didn't bother with making their site pretty and all; they didn't bother, as Yahoo did, to get the whole rainbow of content on their homepage.

Also, kids are no longer wowed by effects and gloss; they can do all those effects themselves. On the other hand, YouTube has made it perfectly acceptable for videos to be pixelized-acceptable to the point that the professionally made amateur-looking ads of Adidas are big hits. Among the youth today, there is no expectation for products to "look" like anything-the only expectation is that what the product offers it must give right away, without any frills.

5 rules for dating my teenage daughter

Now, what does the new youth ideology and aesthetic mean for media, advertising, and business-industries that rely so much on young people? I mean, it used to be so easy for youth marketers; all they needed to do was set a standard - or a "cool"- by tapping traditional media-celebrities, TV, newspapers, magazines. In no time, kids would line up to get the latest shoe. It used to be so easy for media too; up to today, they've been in control so much that most communication models put them at the center of the universe. Business used to compete amongst themselves, now the playing field is much, much larger.

These industries must keep in mind that they're playing a new game today, and they're no longer in control. They now exist at the mercy of the masses. It will be a few years before the landscape changes in the Philippines, as it has in the first world, so there's plenty of time to prepare. Don't worry. But it is good for these industries to start opening their minds this early. And here, I think, are five basic points these industries must remember. (Written in first person from the perspective of someone who is a teenager himself.)

Get to the point. Don't dilly-dally. Do not expect me to sift through your brochure—I need bullet points. You should be able to tell me who you are and what you can give me—in one sentence. And don't sweet-talk me.

Don't be a poser; that's not cool. You can't be a brand for old women and be a brand for young boys. It's pretty hard to put in words, but kids can easily smell a poser; it's easy for us to point out someone who's trying too hard. One of the main reasons consumer-generated content sells is because they "have heart." There must be a sort-of "genuinity" when it comes to products-the products you sell must be *you*, and they must be made for *me*.

Companies should employ marketers who not only know their target market but also live in their target market—after all, markets are evolving like bacteria these days.

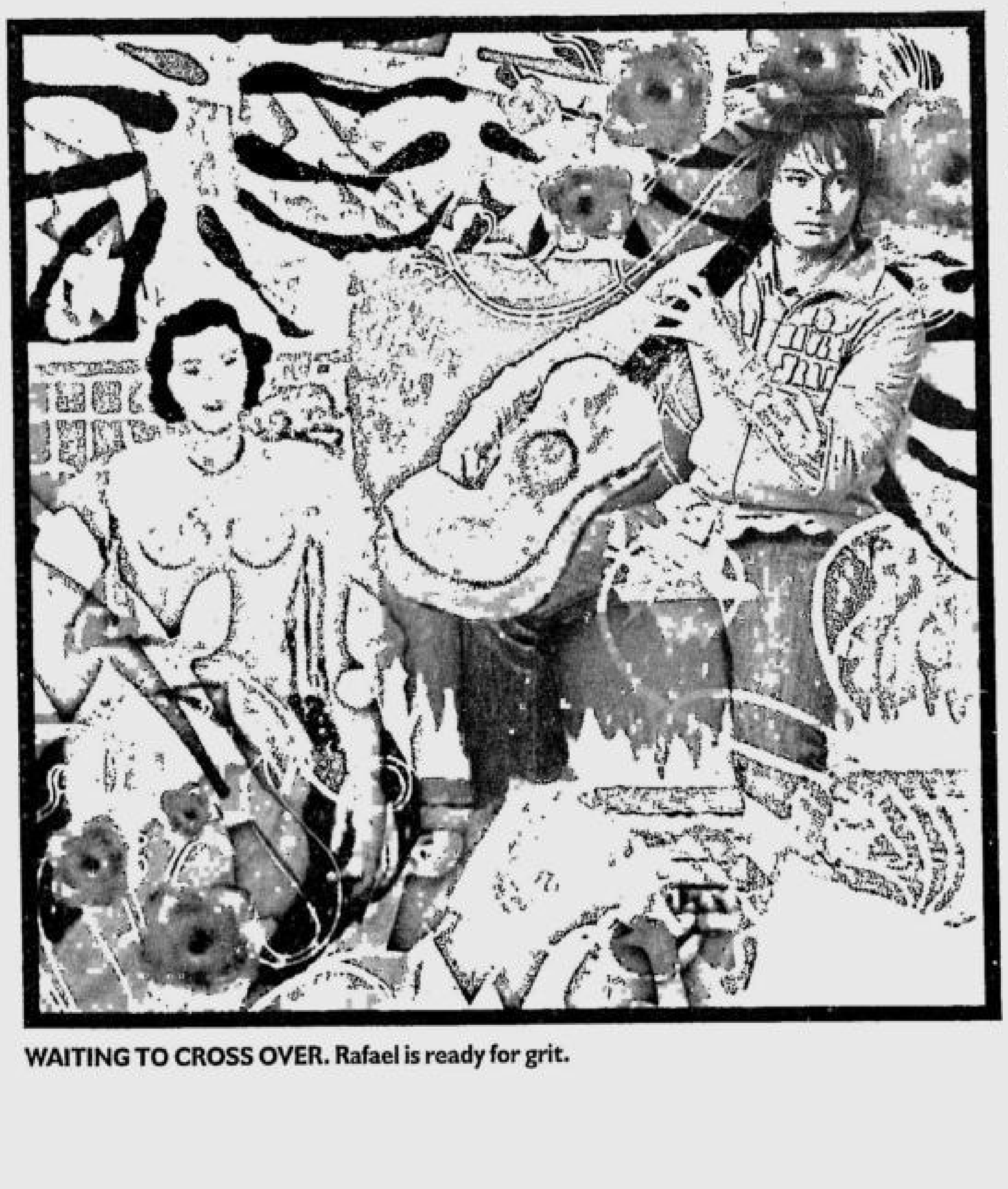
Don't be all up on my face. There is a practice among marketers, locally especially, wherein they put their logo and brand on every nook, cranny, and crevice one can imagine. It gets really annoying. I mean, I've seen your logo once, I don't need to see it again every five seconds. I don't have the memory of a goldfish, and seeing your logo again and again and again makes me sick (of you). Subtlety's the key. I saw a viral (online video) for the Nokia N90 once, and it didn't even have Nokia's name or logo on it. The ad was so random, but do you know what I said after I saw it? "Wow, this is cool. I can't believe this came from Nokia." And right now, I'm talking about this ad.

Don't tell me I'm not cool. Absolutely do not tell me that something is *the* thing to have, do not tell me that some place is *the* place to be. That doesn't work anymore. In my world, where I am the center of the universe, where the only thing that matters is "Me," I get to say what is cool. I don't need to be told what it is.

Lastly, make it worth my while. Tell me something I don't already know. Or, tell me something I already know in a way I've never been told before.

Email the author at pepediokno(at)gmail.com

Employees of the Month



WAITING TO CROSS OVER. Rafael is ready for grit.

From page F1

naman diyan na marunong umarte. So laban lang ng laban. Gusto mo hubaran? Sige. Tama naman lahat ng binagsakan nito."

All for Show

And about the cyber sludge of Photoshop propaganda? Between airbrushed fantasy and bland reality, the former will always be the more delectable. "*Diyos ko, akala naman nila lahat ng babaeng nandiyan, ganyan yung mga katawan nila? Hindi 'noh. Kung lalabas sila ng issue, kahit naman siguro konti dun totoo. Huwag nalang nilang dagdagan para mas maging exag, dahil hindi nila alam na masakit yun para sa amin,*" Angelica says. Thing is, people can waste their time counting stomach ripples, but the girl's still gotten what she wanted in the first place—choice; and that includes trading her bikini in for a bodysuit as a wushu-practicing cosmic warrior in Erik Matti's hyped summer TV romp Rounin, where she co-stars with default billboard beefcake Rafael Rosell. Like Angelica, Rafael's been through the celebrity "meat" grinder—tautening his torso and exhibiting his capoeira-toned rear on Manila's billboards and the circuit of "alternative" mags. And all that—along with past jabs at his sexual orientation and lots of buns-baring—has paid-off, etching his constellation in the Bench planetarium and keeping him buoyed up not so much a teen idol or man-equin, but in a position where he can slowly move from "cover boy" to leading man, if prowess permits. "As far as my career goes—from teenybopper or sex symbol or whatever, I want to explore other areas," Rafael says, bright-eyed about how Rounin could be his hot ticket to grittier roles after it pilots this month. "I want to cross over to the dark side *naman*."

AIRBRUSHED ACCUSATIONS. Angelica needs no Photoshop.

To the public, Rounin could be the big-production miniseries and CGI-fueled answer to US primetime fare like Heroes, but to Rafael and Angelica, it'll be a spanking clean slate to cultivate concrete staying power from, crossing over once more from candied pin-ups to powerful personas in the show biz statusphere. Rounin, like Bench's glazed billboards and Ginebra's calendars are powered by fantasy—and naturally, we'll lap it up like a creamsicle this summer, along with the labeled towels, the underwear, and the controversy. In any case, they've done their jobs pretty darn well. You're still looking, aren't you?

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NOW SHOWING

Law starrer examines contrasting social, moral realities

By Rito P. Asilo

"Breaking and Entering"

D: Anthony Minghella
S: Jude Law, Juliette Binoche and Robin Wright Penn

DOES LOVE END when fidelity flies out the window?

Anthony Minghella, the driving force behind the thrilling 1993 romantic saga, "The English Patient," and the memorable mindbender, 1999's "The Talented Mr. Ripley," reflects on love, faith and circumstance in an atypical tale that subtly but effectively examines contrasting social and moral realities that are brought to the fore when modern technology, class differences and conscience intertwine.

Jude Law plays landscape architect, Will Francis, whose firm has just opened a new office in the poor and crime-infested North London suburb, King's Cross—said to be the center of Europe's most ambitious urban regeneration site these days. His relationship with longtime live-in partner, Liv (Robin Wright Penn), who has a 13-year-old autistic daughter, is on the rocks.

Will finds a welcome diversion when, after a series of break-ins and burglaries at the office, he decides to spy on one of the teenage thieves, Miro (impressive newcomer Rafi Gavron), a Bosnian refugee who lives in a shoddy housing project with his mom, Amira (Juliette Binoche).

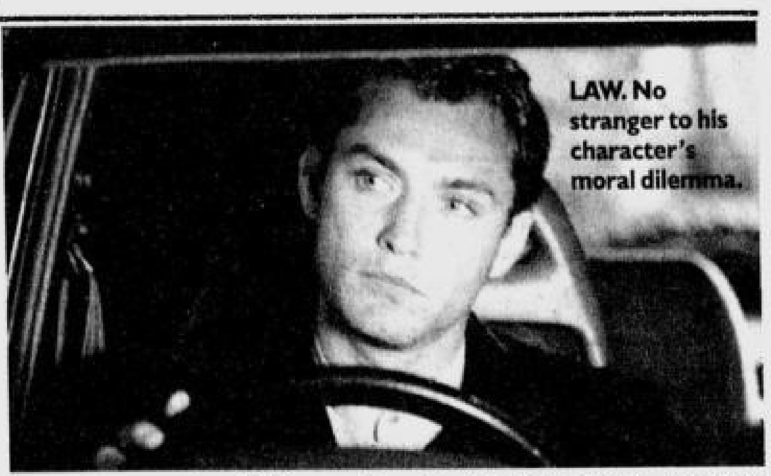
These events are set against the backdrop of London's changing geographical and cultural landscape. Along the way, Will meets Russian prostitute, Oana (the scene-stealing Vera Farmiga), who provides some comic relief to the production's meditative albeit ponderous tone.

Curiosity gets the better of Will when he finds himself smitten by Amira's loneliness—and, soon after, ends up in her bed! But, things take a turn for the worse when Amira videotapes one of their sexual encounters to protect her son *if* Will decides to turn him over to the authorities! Indeed, a mother's love will always outweigh a woman's need for romance.

With expositional restraint and a contemplative style, Minghella peppers the narrative trail with metaphorical references to the events that take place and what goes on inside his characters' heads—from Liv's melancholy and Amira's selflessness to Oana's candor and Will's inner turmoil.

A minor quibble: Minghella allows some scenes to totter in thoughtful complacency even if they could have benefited from a more urgent approach in storytelling. Then, he resolves the "crisis" with a convenient but unconvincingly anticlimactic *mea culpa*.

More positively, Penn and Binoche provide stirring and tacitly dramatic contrasts to Law's struggle with his character's guilt.



LAW. No stranger to his character's moral dilemma.

The classically handsome actor, of course, is no stranger to Will's moral dilemma. He effectively conveys the predicament of a man torn between his obligation to keep his family together *and* his desire to break free from the shackles of social and moral ennui.

In the real world, however, the overused adage, "Love means never having to say you're sorry," doesn't always ring true—and saying sorry is no guarantee for a fairy-tale ending.

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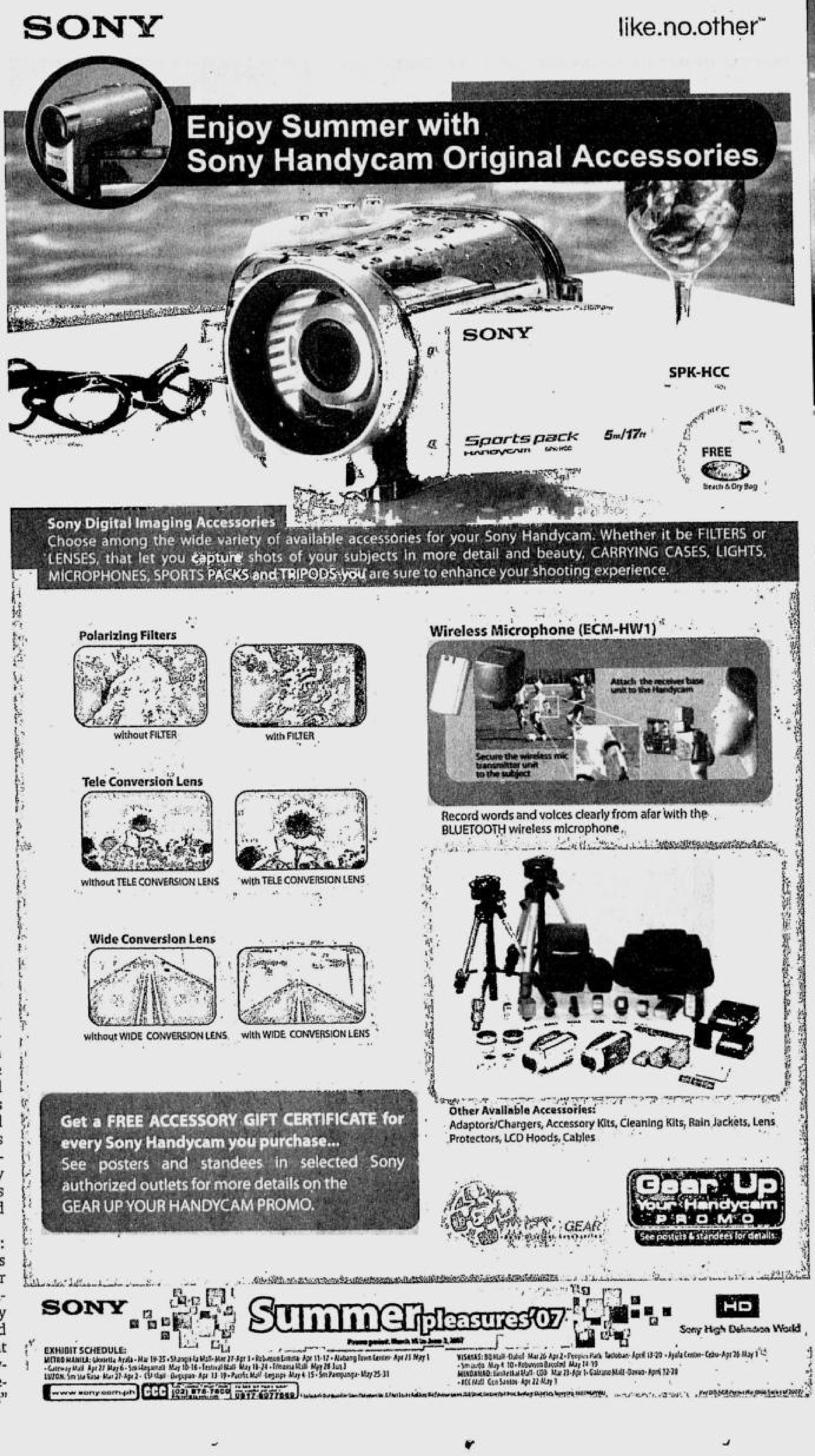

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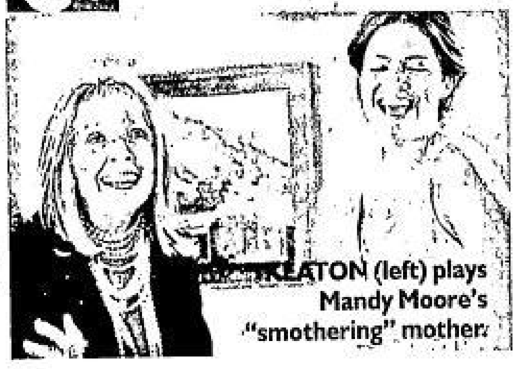


KEATON (left) plays Mandy Moore's "smothering" mother.

By Nestor U. Torre

THE PROSPECT OF WATCHING A ROmantic comedy topbilling Diane Keaton and Mandy Moore sounds yummy—especially when Keaton is cast as Moore's "smothering" mother. So, we view "Because I Said So" with incipient delight, an initial predisposition that is encouraged by the movie's early scenes.

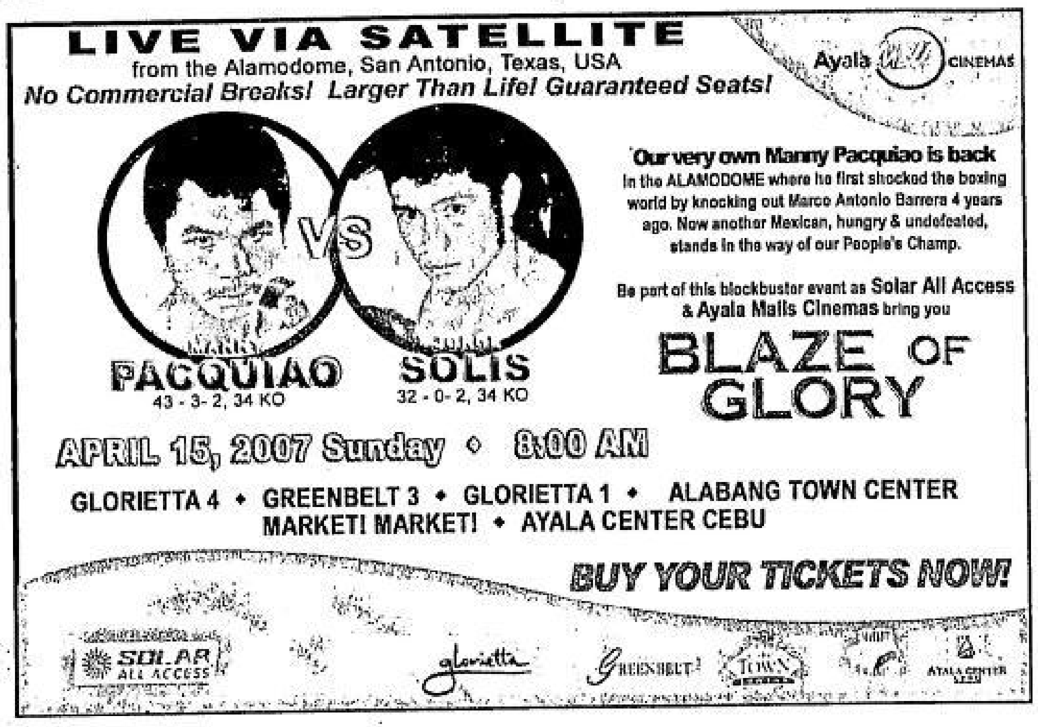
Keaton is introduced to us not just as Moore's mom, but also as the mother of two older, married siblings. All of Keaton's daughters have had to put up with her controlling ways, and now it's the still-unmarried Moore's turn to endure her mother's attempt to choose the "perfect" man for her to marry.

Clueless daughters

Unknown to her clueless daughter, Keaton runs a "husband wanted" ad that nets 17 weird applicants. Well, at least one of them turns out to be the exception to the rule: He's rich, dishy, and quickly falls in love with Moore's clueless character.

Both mom and beau arrange it so that the daughter doesn't know she's been set up—she thinks he's chosen him on her own. Of course, it turns out to be a major problem when she eventually discovers what they've done—and

AND MOMMY/ G3



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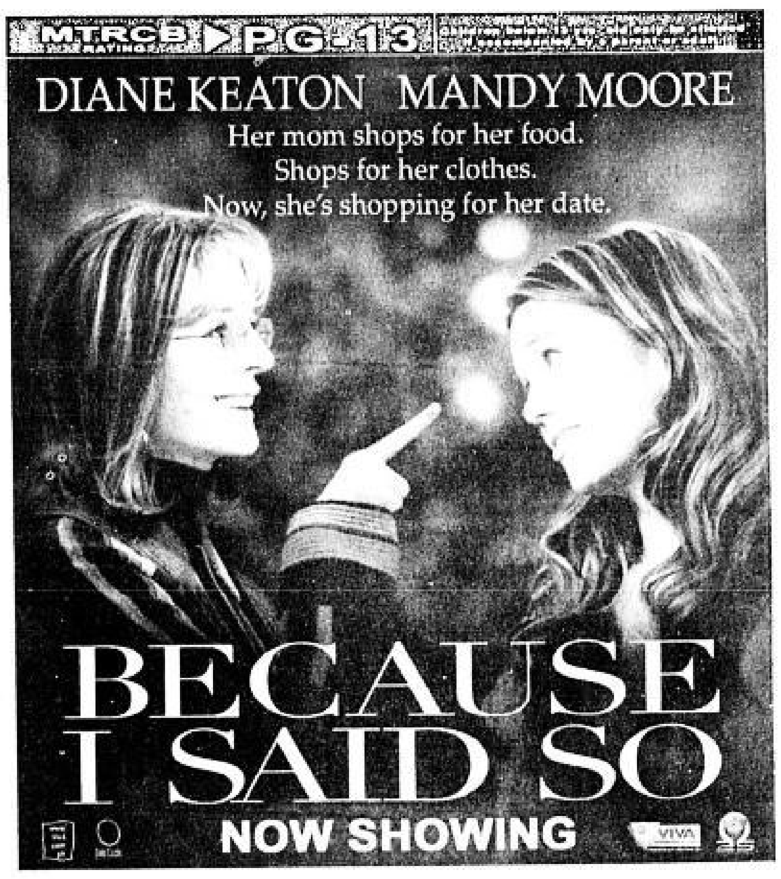

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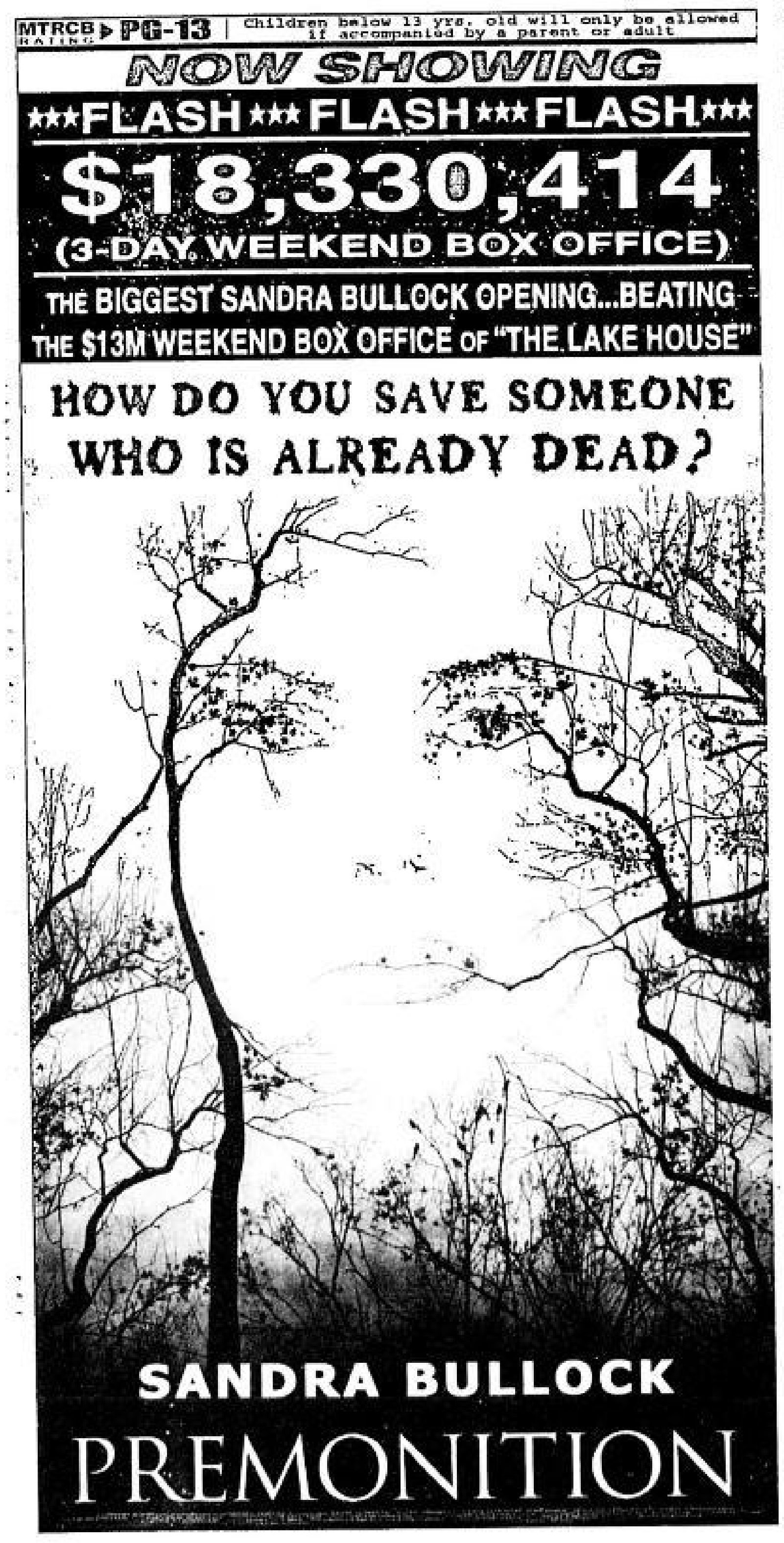

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And Mommy

From page F2

promptly freaks out.

To complicate things, Moore's character finds another man on her own. He's "just" a musician, so Keaton doesn't think he's "right" for her darling daughter. Since she can't make up her ditzy mind, Moore proceeds to date *both* guys—with predictably complicated and messy results.

So far, so acceptable. Unfortunately, the film's tone is not as as agreeable. The people involved in the film on both sides of the camera appear to be insecure about their story's ability to entertain, so they go overboard in pumping up its comedy ante.

Character

The male actors don't push it as hard, but the female stars are a caution. Moore plays up the ditzy side to her character to the point of excess, while Keaton is all over the place being the cliché epitome of the smothering mom.

Even this would be fairly tolerable, were it not for the fact that the mom-daughter tandem decides to raise the movie's decibel level as well.

In one particularly loquacious, argumentative and perfervid sequence, they yak and scream at each other so loudly that we have to close our eyes and cover our ears.

Thankfully, the scene is over soon enough so we can go back to trying to appreciate the film's more positive aspects.

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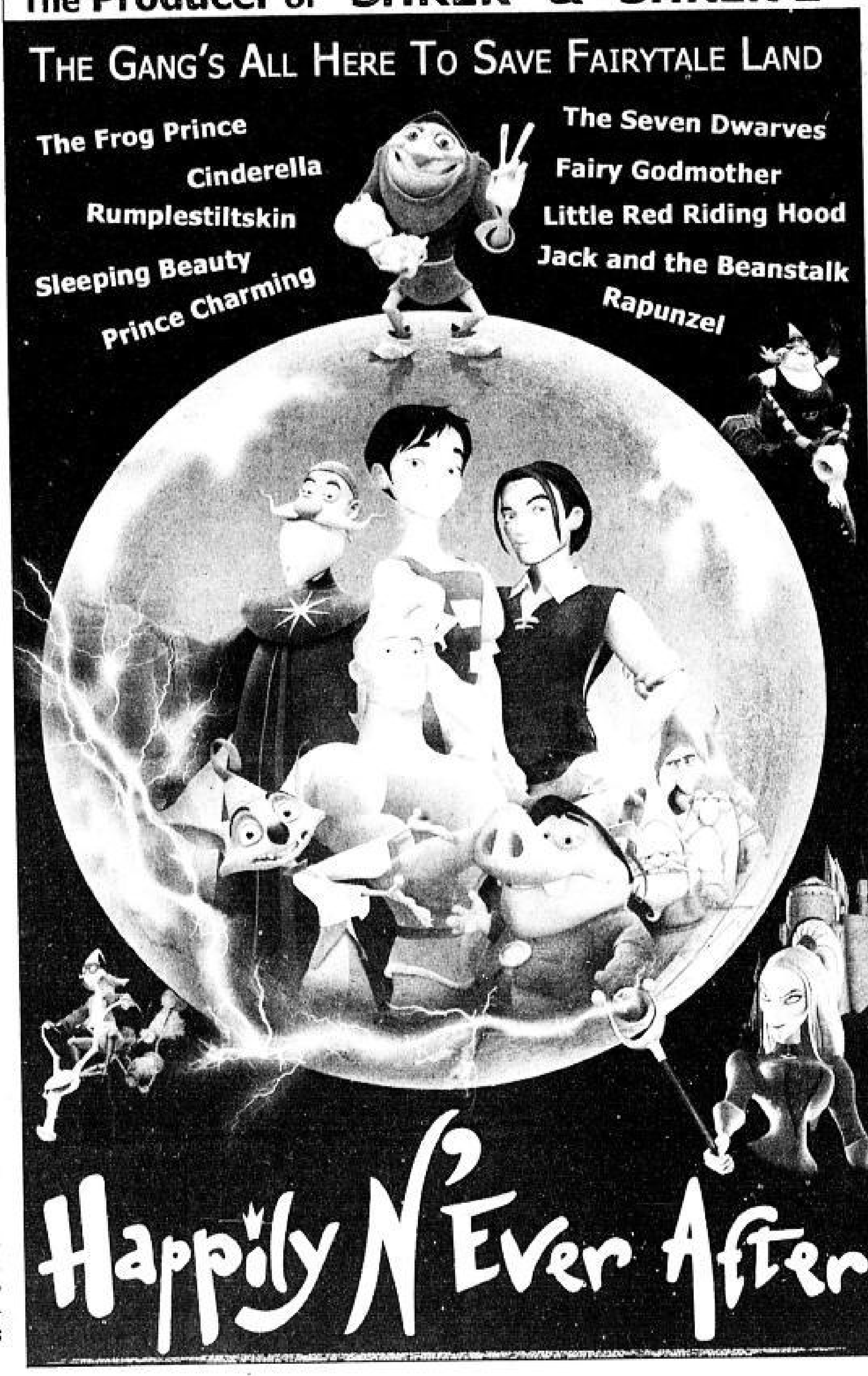

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300 2:00 / 4:40 / 7:20 / 10:00	PATHFINDER 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50	BECAUSE I SAID SO 12:10 / 5:00 / 9:50 DREAMGIRLS 2:20 / 7:10	NORBIT 1:10 / 3:45 / 6:20 / 8:55

AliMALL 5

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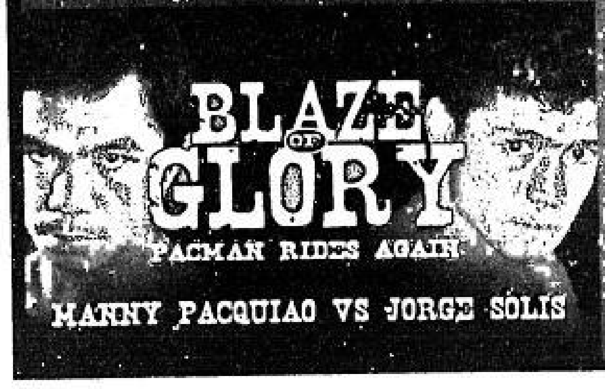

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 TURISTAS	2 NORBIT	3 PREMONITION	4 ZOMBIES
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 TURISTAS	2 ALPHA DOG	3 THX 300 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 BREAKING & ENTERING	5 BECAUSE I SAID SO	6 NORBIT	7 PREMONITION
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 300	2 NORBIT		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX 300 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX NORBIT GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 BREAKING & ENTERING GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DREAMGIRLS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 TURISTAS GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX NORBIT GUARANTEED SEATS	2 TURISTAS		
	3 300	4 ALPHA DOG	5 PREMONITION	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DREAMGIRLS	2 THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS	3 300	4 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 NORBIT	2 PREMONITION		
	3 MONAY NI SHOLI	4 ZOMBIES	5 TURISTAS	

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Market! Market! - 886 7519

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BPI Express Credit Installment Madness February 28 to March 18, 2007	Anson's Exhibit March 5 to 23, 2007
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DIRECTOR ANTHONY MINGHELLA

Jude LAW Juliette BINOCHE Robin WRIGHT PENN

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MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13

Buena Vista International
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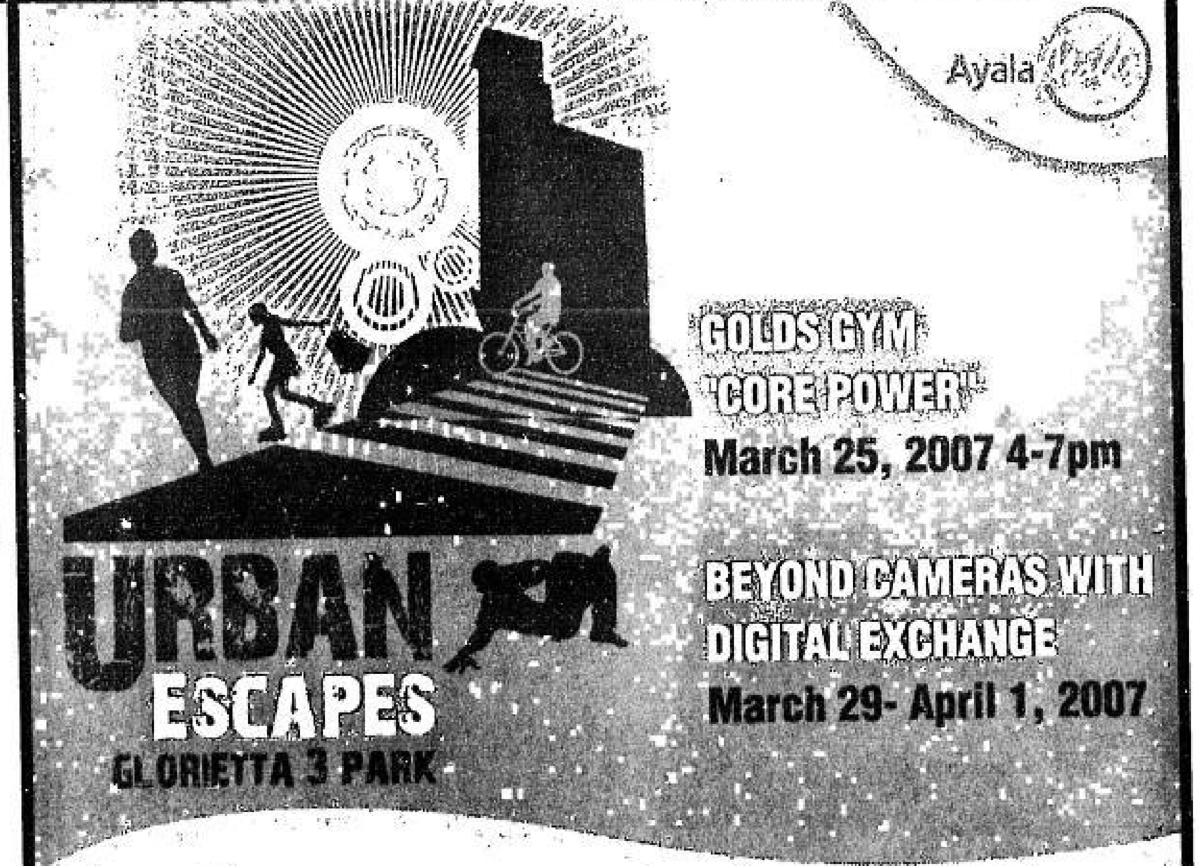

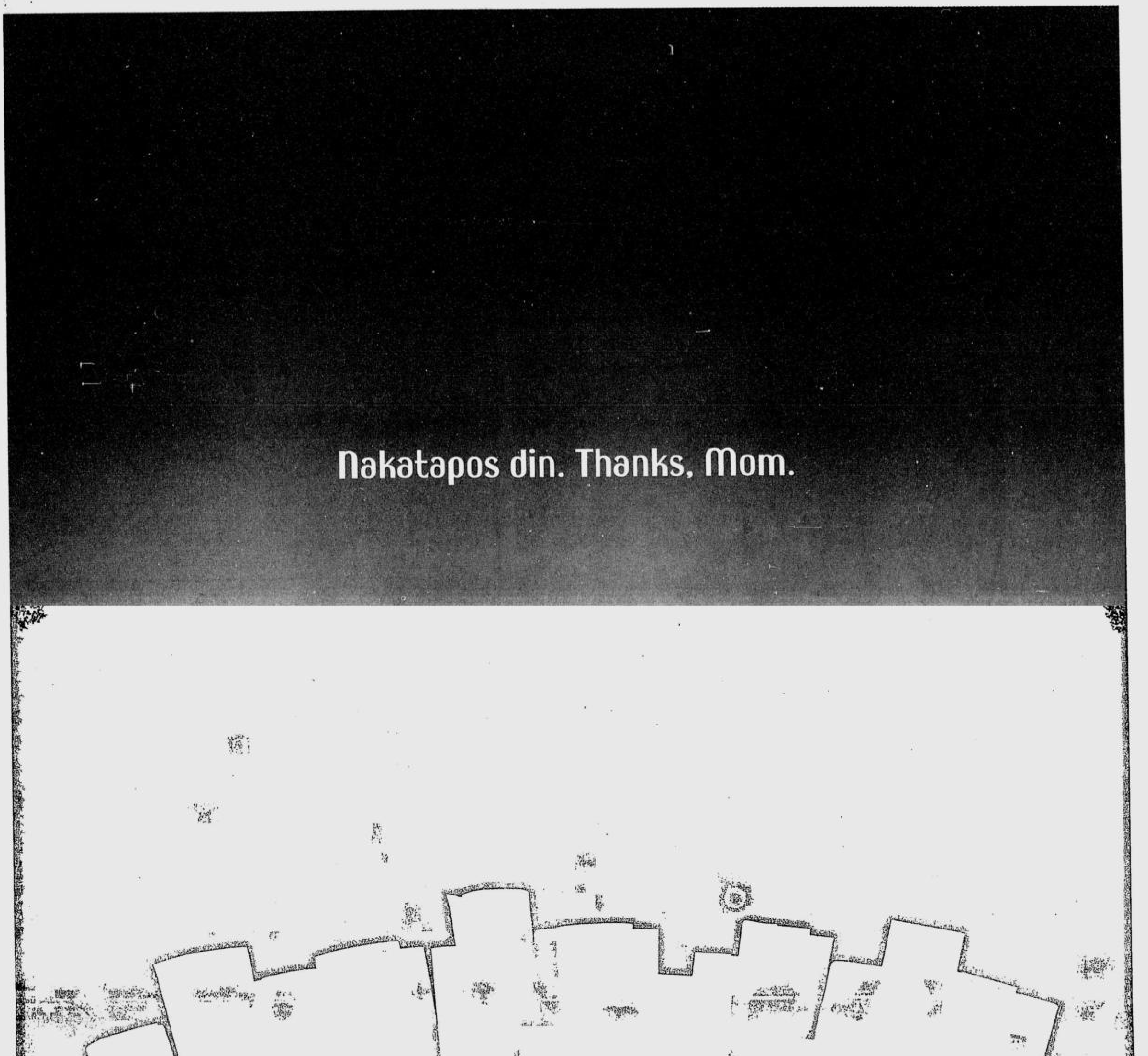
Nakatapos din. Thanks, Mom.

SATURDAY*Special*

STALLONE. Last hurrah for boxing champ.

Action heroes rule big-screen attractions

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN SYLVESTER STALLONE ANNOUNCED last year that he was dusting off his signature Rocky persona for a sixth movie outing, some fans sniffed the sad scent of desperation and failure.

But, Stallone confounded the naysayers when his new film, "Rocky Balboa," turned out to be an inspiring viewing experience. In the current attraction, Rocky is a middle-aged washout, but is lured out for one last fight with a much younger opponent, the reigning champion.

Like Stallone, Bruce Willis has also decided to return to his cinematic roots for one last hurrah: He's starring in "Die Hard 4.0," and once again plays police officer, John McClane.

This time around, he's found a position with Homeland Security chasing dangerous computer hackers. He soon has to contend with a group of hackers who have struck at the vulnerable US computer infrastructure

ACTION/H3

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NOW SHOWING

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1 PREMONITION
2 300
3 NORBIT
4 BECAUSE I SAID SO
PREMIERE
TURISTAS

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 300
2 PREMONITION
3 NORBIT
4 TURISTAS

starmall
EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268150
3 PREMONITION
4 MONAY NI SHOLI
5 RESRVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clicktheaters.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 MONAY NI SHOOLI
2 PATHFINDER
3 TURISTAS
4 300

THEATRES
1 300
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271
HAPPY HEARTS
EPIC MOVIE
RESRVED
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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 ZOMBIES
2 APHA DOG
3 TURISTAS
4 PATHFINDER
5 PREMONITION
6 300
7 NORBIT
8 BECAUSE I SAID SO
9 MONAY NI SHOOLI
10 HAPPY HEARTS

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) 300
2 (DOLBY) TURISTAS
3 (DOLBY) PREMONITION
PACQUIAO VS' SOLIS * APRIL 15, 2007

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 PATHFINDER
2 TURISTAS
3 MONAY NI SHOLI
4 300
5 PREMONITION

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 MONAY NI SHOOLI
2 PATHFINDER
3 YOU GOT ME
4 ASK THE DUSK

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 MONAY NI SHOOLI
2 ZOMBIES
3 ALPHA DOG

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 300
2 MUSIC & LYRICS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 NUMBER 23
2 MONAY NI SHOOLI
3 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
4 HAPPY HEARTS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 HAPPY HEARTS
2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 PREMONITION
2 300
3 NORBIT
4 TURISTAS

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 HAPPY HEARTS
2 DEAD PEOPLE-2
3 300
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 THE HITCHER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 HAPPY HEARTS
2 NUMBER 23
3 GHOST RIDER
4 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 300
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 FLUSHED AWAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 DEAD PEOPLE - 2
2 HAPPY HEARTS

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 MONAY NI SHOOLI
2 PEEP SHOW

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 THE HITCHER
2 SHE WALK BY NIGHT
3 NAGBABAGANG LANGIT
4 MONAY NI SHOLI

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 DEAD PEOPLE-2
2 HUNGER FOR LOVE
3 MONAY NI SHOLI
4 FIRST TIME
5 SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MONAY NI SHOOLI
2 DEAD PEOPLE-2
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 EPIC MOVIE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 MONAY NI SHOLI
2 OBSESSION

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

TURISTAS R13 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25	PREMONITION PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30	DREAMGIRLS PG13 12:40,3:20 BECAUSE I SAID SO PG13 6:00,8:10,10:20
300, R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30	ALPHA DOG R13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:25	NORBIT PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25

SHANG CINEPLEX

① PREMONITION
MTRCB: PG-13
12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

② 300
MTRCB: R-13
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

③ NORBIT
MTRCB: PG-13
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

④ BECAUSE I SAID SO
MTRCB: PG-13
1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE TURISTAS MTRCB: R-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

Catch the Cineplex Special

In celebration of Women's Month Shangri-La Plaza presents concert-pianist Ingrid Sala Santamaria with the Peace Philharmonic Philippines String Quartet on March 24 (Sat.) at 7pm and ballerina par excellence Lisa Macuja with Ballet Manila on March 31 (Sat.) at 6:30 pm at the Grand Atrium, Level 2.
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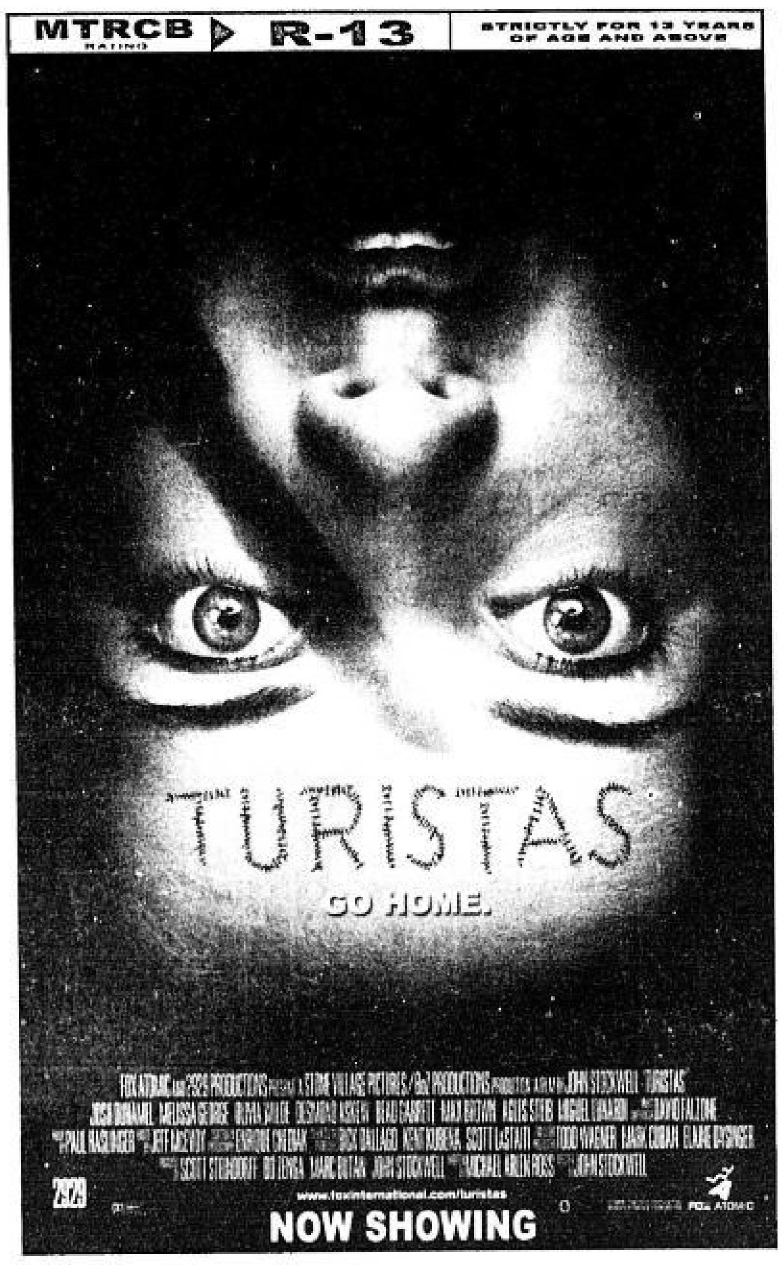
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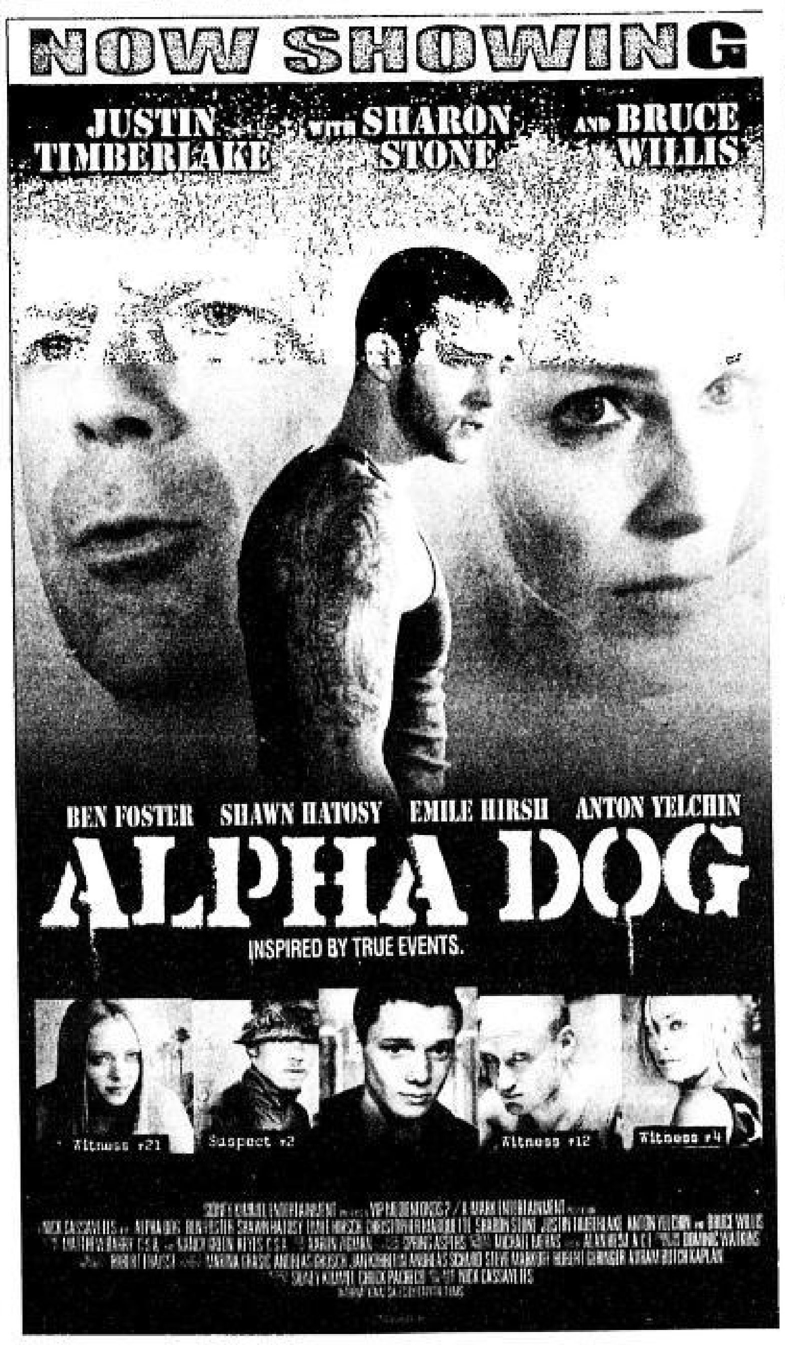
NOW SHOWING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Ang hindi tumawa Guilty!
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TIRSO CRUZ III GERMAN MORENO
GISELLE SANCHEZ RICKY DAVAO
JIMMY FABREGAS JERIC RAVAL REZ CORTEZ
CARIDAD SANCHEZ JIMMY SANTOS
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MELY TAGASA REY SOLO TADO BERTING LABRA
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BAYANI CASIMIRO JR. RIVA REYES SHALALA
FLORA GASSER RAFRAF SANTIAGO
Written & Directed by:
JUN URBANO
*(MISTEYKS OPDA NEYSION ADRES YATA)
B
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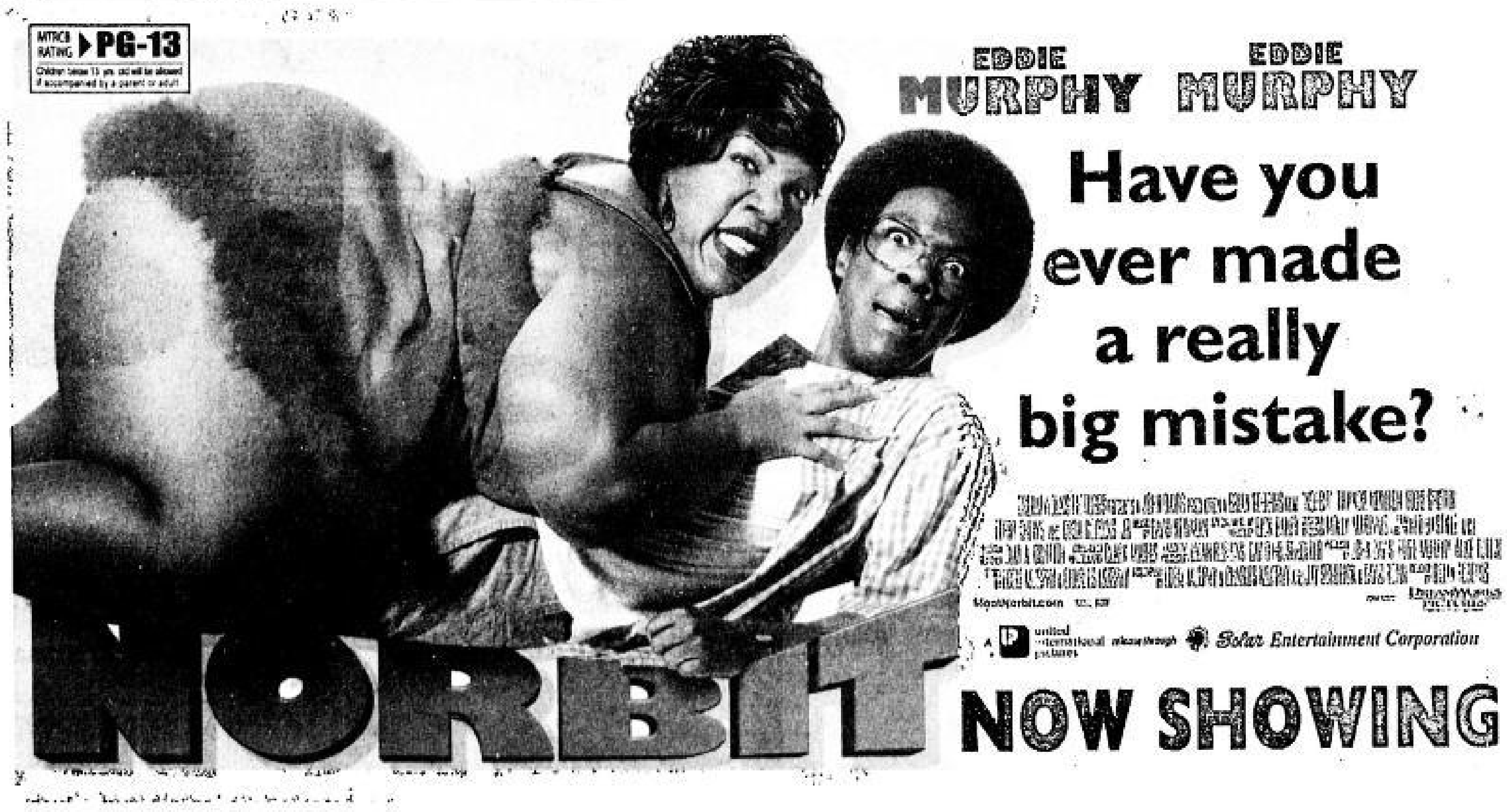
ADVENTURES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EDDIE MURPHY EDDIE MURPHY
Have you ever made a really big mistake?
united international pictures release through Solar Entertainment Corporation
NORBIT
NOW SHOWING

MURPHY. Plays male and female roles in "Norbit."

ONE STEP BACK FOR MURPHY

By Noelani Torre

IF THE PICTURE OF a fantastically fat woman lifting up her stomach to show her bikini bottoms doesn't strike you as funny, then "Norbit" isn't the movie for you.

Fat suit

Once again donning a fat suit and special effects make-up, Eddie Murphy plays the titular character, his weight-challenged wife, *and* a politically incorrect old Chinese guy. He also wrote the movie's story (with brother Charles), and co-produced it.

"Norbit" is the story of Norbit Rice, a guy who never gets a break. Tossed outside the doorstep of Mr. Wong's Golden Wonton, a Chinese restaurant/orphanage, he grows up and becomes close friends with cute little girl, Kate.

Baby sister

They are separated when Kate gets adopted, but the always-bullied young man finds another friend (or so he thinks) in the baby sister of the town's extortionists—and she's a monster! They grow up, get married, and Norbit morphs from being a spineless, henpecked boyfriend to being a spineless, henpecked husband.

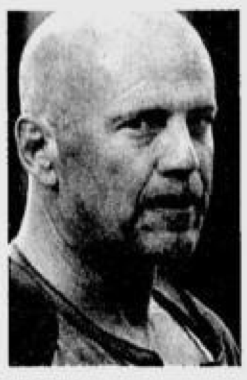
Then, Kate, now all grown-up, lithe, and lovely, comes back with a handsome fiancé in tow. Norbit realizes that he wants to be with her, but there are many obstacles in the way.

Recounted this way, the movie sounds perfectly acceptable, if a little dull. The plot's bare bones, however, can't even begin to describe the film's raucousness and crudity.

Surprise

Released on the heels of Murphy's Oscar best supporting actor nomination for "Dreamgirls," the rather puerile film comes as a surprise. Why, one wonders, would a gifted actor take this big step backward?

"Norbit" fails as a comedy in many ways. For one, it isn't funny. Consequently, its timing is off, and the political incorrectness is too strident.



WILLIS. Returns to cinematic roots.

Action heroes rule…

From page H1

and are systematically shutting it down.

In Danny Boyle's "Sunshine," the sun is dying and along with it, life on Earth. A group of scientists has developed a bomb that could jolt the sun back to life.

Specialty

Onboard is a crew of eight, each of whom has a vital scientific specialty to perform. But, as they travel near the sun, they learn that they are not alone. Michelle Yeoh and Chris Evans star.

After effectively playing a Chinese emperor in "Curse of the Golden Flower," Chow Yun-Fat further expands his gallery of rogues by portraying Captain Sao Feng in "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End."

In the third installment of the hit movie series, the characters played by Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, and Geoffrey Rush are in a desperate quest to free Johnny Depp from his mind-bending trap in Davey Jones' locker.

Transformation

Finally, "Spider-Man 3" is ready for release this year, still with Tobey Maguire topbilling and Sam Raimi directing. Maguire isn't a hunk, but his thespic ability enables him to make his transformation into the masked superhero not just believable, but also exciting.

With the help of CGI magic, another gifted actor, Thomas Haden Church, is similarly transformed into the awesomely destructive villain, Sandman, who proves to be a most formidable foe for Spider-Man!

MAGUIRE. Back as web-slinging hero.

CHOW. Expands gallery of rogues.

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MTRCB Rating: R-13

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Admission Fee- P250
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11:30AM 1:00PM 5:30PM 7:00PM
Admission Fee- P200

1 TURISTAS
2 PATHFINDER
3 NORBIT
4 BECAUSE I SAID SO/ DREAMGIRLS
5 ALPHA DOG
6 ZOMBIES

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PREMONITION

CENTERSTAGE
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THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
PREMONITION/ 300
CINEMA 2
NORBIT
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1 ALPHA DOG
2 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
3 ZOMBIES
4 PATHFINDER
5 HAPPY HEARTS
6 BECAUSE I SAID SO
7 300
8 NORBIT
9 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
10 YOU GOT ME
11 TURISTAS
12 PREMONITION

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 TURISTAS
2 BECAUSE I SAID SO
3 PREMONITION
4 300
5 PATHFINDER
6 NORBIT
7 ALPHA DOG
8 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
9 HAPPY HEARTS
10 YOU GOT ME
11 SIQUIJOR
12 ZOMBIES

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
2 BECAUSE I SAID SO
3 DREAMGIRLS
4 300
5 YOU GOT ME
6 NORBIT
7 TURISTAS
8 PREMONITION
9 ZOMBIES
10 GHOST RIDER
11 PATHFINDER
12 HAPPY HEARTS

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 NORBIT
2 TURISTAS
3 300
4 PREMONITION
5 HAPPY HEARTS
6 ZOMBIE
7 PATHFINDER
8 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
9 ALPHA DOG
10 YOU GOT ME

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 300
2 PREMONITION
3 ZOMBIES
4 TURISTAS
5 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
6 NORBIT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 PREMONITION
2 NORBIT
3 ZOMBIES
4 300
5 ALPHA DOG
6 PATHFINDER
7 HAPPY HEARTS
8 TURISTAS
9 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 TURISTAS
2 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 300

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 TURISTAS
2 ALPHA DOG
3 PREMONITION
4 PATHFINDER
5 NORBIT
6 300
7 BECAUSE I SAID SO
8 DEAD PEOPLE 2
9 HAPPY HEARTS
10 YOU GOT ME
11 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
12 ZOMBIES

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 300
2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
3 DREAM GIRLS
4 PATHFINDER

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 300
2 DREAMGIRLS
3 PATHFINDER
4 HAPPY HEARTS

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

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2 300.
3 TURISTAS
4 PATHFINDER

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SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
2 YOU GOT ME
3 PREMONITION
4 ZOMBIES
5 300
6 HAPPY HEARTS
7 TURISTAS
8 PATHFINDER

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 300
2 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
3 NUMBER 23
4 THE HITCHER
5 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
6 HAPPY HEARTS

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 300
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 YOU GOT ME
4 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 YOU GOT ME
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 EPIC MOVIE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 300
3 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
4 THE HITCHER
5 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
6 HAPPY HEARTS

SM CIY LIPA (043) 756-7925

1 HAPPY HEARTS
2 EPIC MOVIE
3 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
4 THE HITCHER

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 YOU GOT ME
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 THE HITCHER
4 EPIC MOVIE

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
3 THE GOOD SHEPHERD
4 300

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 TURISTAS
2 300
3 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
4 BECAUSE I SAID SO

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

1 BECAUSE I SAID SO
2 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 THE HITCHER

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 300
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
4 MUSIC AND LYRICS
5 THE GOOD SHEPHERD
6 EPIC MOVIE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 EPIC MOVIE
2 THE HITCHER
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 300

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 NUMBER 23
2 RESERVED
3 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
4 300
5 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
6 THE FOUNTAIN
7 RESERVED
8 THE GOOD SHEPHERD

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 EPIC MOVIE
2 DREAMGIRLS
3 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
4 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
5 YOU GOT ME
6 SIQUIJOR
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8 300

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12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

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6 ZOMBIES
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

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12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

8 indieSine: ANAK ng TINAPA 1:30 3:05
SA AKING PAGKAGISING 5:20 7:25 9:30

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12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

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12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

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12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 10:00

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4 ZOMBIES
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

5 PATHFINDER
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00

6 BECAUSE I SAID SO
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

7 TURISTAS
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This tale follows the romantic journey of two straight women caught in a web of forbidden love. Juliet, a conservative pre-school teacher hires Rome, a liberated businesswoman to be her wedding planner. As they go through the preparations, the two develop a relationship that the groom to be soon finds out.

Children's book vivifies Tintin's latest advocacy

By Nestor U. Torre

WE'RE HAPPY TO HEAR THAT TINTIN Bersola-Babao has added writing children's stories to her lengthening list of advocacies. For many years now, we've been plugging for more reading materials for children, to help balance the pap and pabulum they get in mega-doses from television and video games.

When we edited the Sunday Inquirer Magazine, we made it a point to run a story for young readers as often as possible, and youths, parents, teachers and child psychologists expressed their appreciation.

The magazine even won an award for its service to the cause of children's literature.

Last Christmas season, we also ran weekly yuletide stories for young readers in Saturday Special, and readers' reactions were similarly appreciative.

So, the publication of Tintin's second children's story, "Basura Monster," is cause for celebration. It encourages children to dispose of garbage because it pollutes the environment and could affect their health prospects.

Very clean

This is an important contribution, because many Filipinos, children and adults alike, need to be educated about what to do with garbage. We tend to be very clean and neat in our own homes and yards, but we seem to think that what happens outside is none of our business.

In fact, some of us even regard the world outside our homes as one big garbage can. And, when we're driving, some of us think it's A-OK to throw trash out of the car window, for others to deal with as best they can.

This is why we regard Metro Aides as the *yayas* and janitors of the nation, whose job it is to pick up after us, their spoiled wards. So, in a sense, Metro Aides spoil us and make it easy for us to act in a slovenly manner in public places.

Problem

In any case, Tintin's "Basura Monster" teaches children to be much more aware and responsible in relation to our now "monstrous" garbage problem.

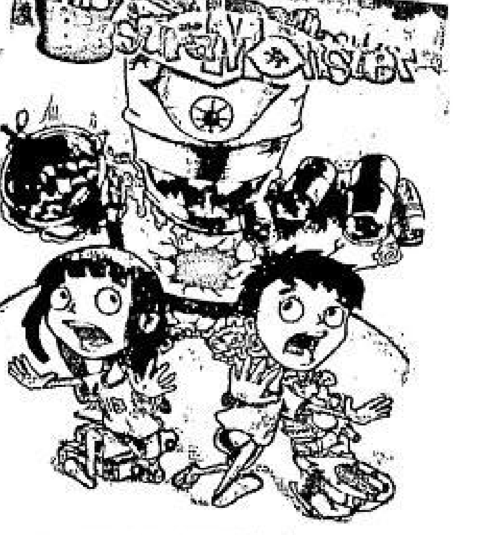
To make it easier for young readers to understand the situation, the author shows how all forms of garbage create a living and breathing Basura Monster.

Each time anybody adds to the garbage pile, the monster gains in size and strength. When it's assumed skyscraper height, it sets off, Godzilla-like, to decimate the countryside, to poison the environment, and make life unbearable, particularly for the vulnerable youth.

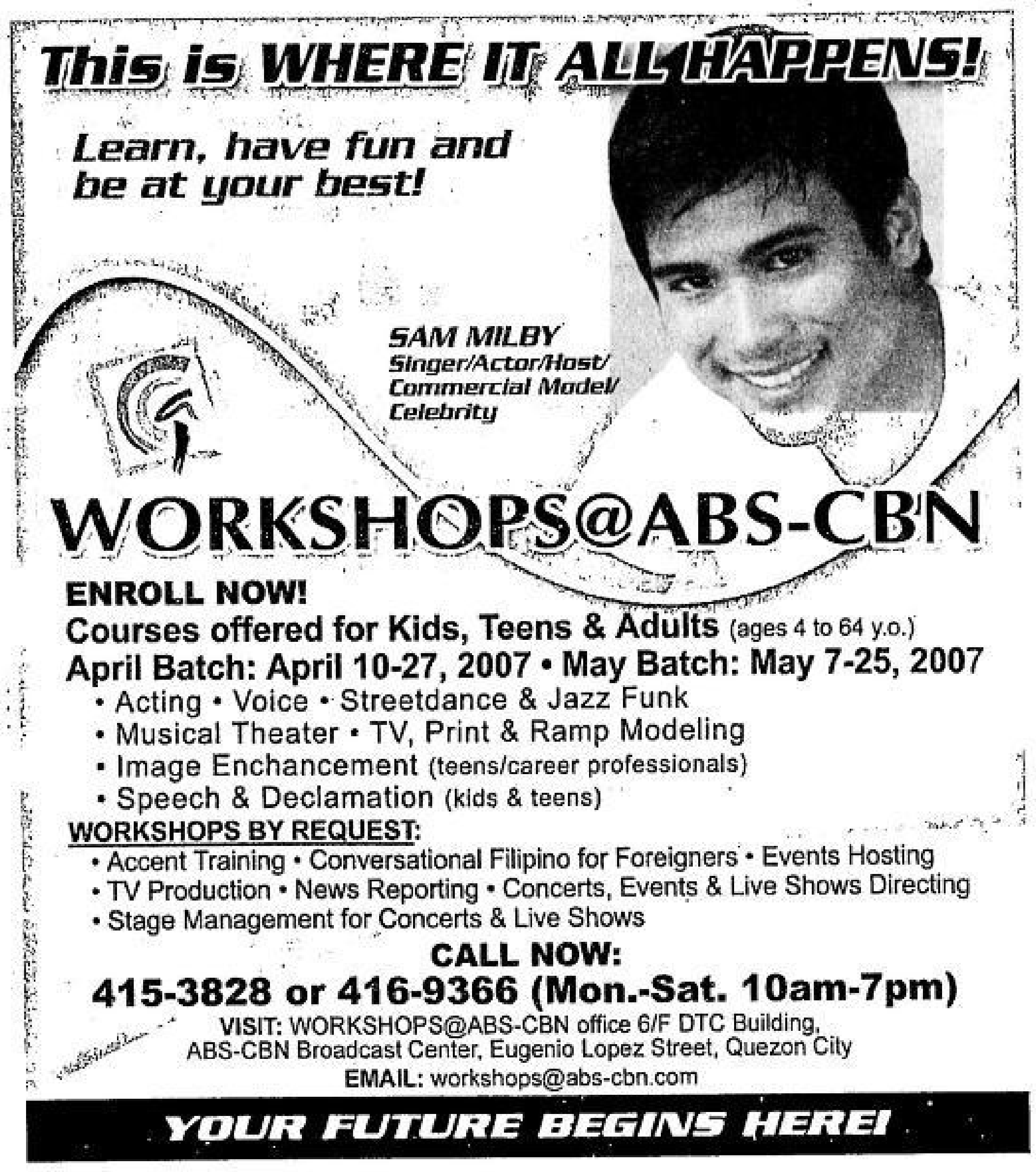
In addition, Tintin's book teaches children how to segregate and recycle trash. It is hoped that better-informed children will eventually teach their more clueless and irresponsible elders to do the right thing when it comes to garbage management.

It's a tall order, but "Basura Monster" will definitely help achieve it. We trust that parents and teachers will similarly help by getting their young wards interested in Tintin's little but mighty book, and then initiate discussions to further drive home its most salient points. It's likely, though, that some kids could end up teaching the adults this time around.

Well, it doesn't really matter who does the teaching, as long as everybody does the learning!



"BASURA MONSTER." Important contribution.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'The Groomsmen' topbills Edward Burns, Jay Mohr

MONTAGE

WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO TIE THE knot, does that mean that it's time to ditch your friends and party all night? In the new comedy, "The Groomsmen," five thirtysomethings discover that their days and nights of behaving badly are finally coming to a close, and most of them aren't happy about it!

In one week's time, Paulie (Edward Burns) will be married to his beautiful fiancee, Sue (Britanny Murphy)—but it looks like Paulie has to grow up, fast—something that guys find hard to do.

As he bands together with his gang of lifelong pals—his brother Jimbo (Donal Logue), cousin Mike (Jay Mohr), Dez (Matthew Lillard) and T.C. (John Leguizamo)—Paulie feels he's about to lose a vital part of who he is.

The gang's secret fears come to the surface, and they wrestle with issues of fatherhood, honesty and personal responsibility. And, as his wedding day looms closer, Paulie sees that, though bonds of friendship can change, they never break.

BURNS. Wrestles with issues of brotherhood, honesty and personal responsibility.

On Hallmark Channel

At 8 p.m. today on The Hallmark Channel, the film on view is "Poseidon Adventure." The riveting saga of a doomed ship and its passengers is presented in a new adaptation by John Putch starring Sylvia Sims. Adam Baldwin, Peter Butler and Rutger Hauer.

Sunday nights at 11, Hallmark telecasts "Two Twisted," a dark anthology.

Two stories are featured each week: Tomorrow, "Call Back" is about a mysterious phone call that tells a man he gets an opportunity to erase the past, and "Heart Attack" is about a doctor who has a coronary.

Justin Timberlake

Fave star Justin Timberlake will host Nickelodeon's 20th Annual Kids' Choice Awards on March 31, as kids honor their favorites from the worlds of film, music, sports and television in a star-studded live telecast from UCLA's Pauley Pavilion. Nominees include Johnny Depp, Bruce Willis, Beyoncé, Jack Black, Dakota Fanning and Julia Roberts.

Star-studded show

A star-studded show will cap the Manila Bay Seasports Festival awards night tomorrow at Rajah Sulayman Park, Roxas blvd. Performers include Janno Gibbs, Erik Santos, Alyssa Alano, the Sexbomb Dancers and Brownman Revival.

Today's festival events include Bancathon races, beach volleyball tourneys and wall-climbing competitions.

Cuba Libre

Cuba Libre Latin Bar and Restaurant (call 718-3790) at Starmall Edsa-Shaw lays down its band schedule: Today, Red Sector. Tomorrow, Streetbeat. March 30, En Masse. March 31, Chozen.

'The Reaping' premiere

The gala premiere of the new suspense-thriller, "The Reaping," will be held on March 27 at Greenbelt 3. The film stars Hilary Swank as a former minister who has to contend with "biblical" plagues that threaten the residents of a small town.

Bilancia event

Tomorrow, Bilancia will hold an all-men march as part of the culminating activities of the celebration of Women's Month.

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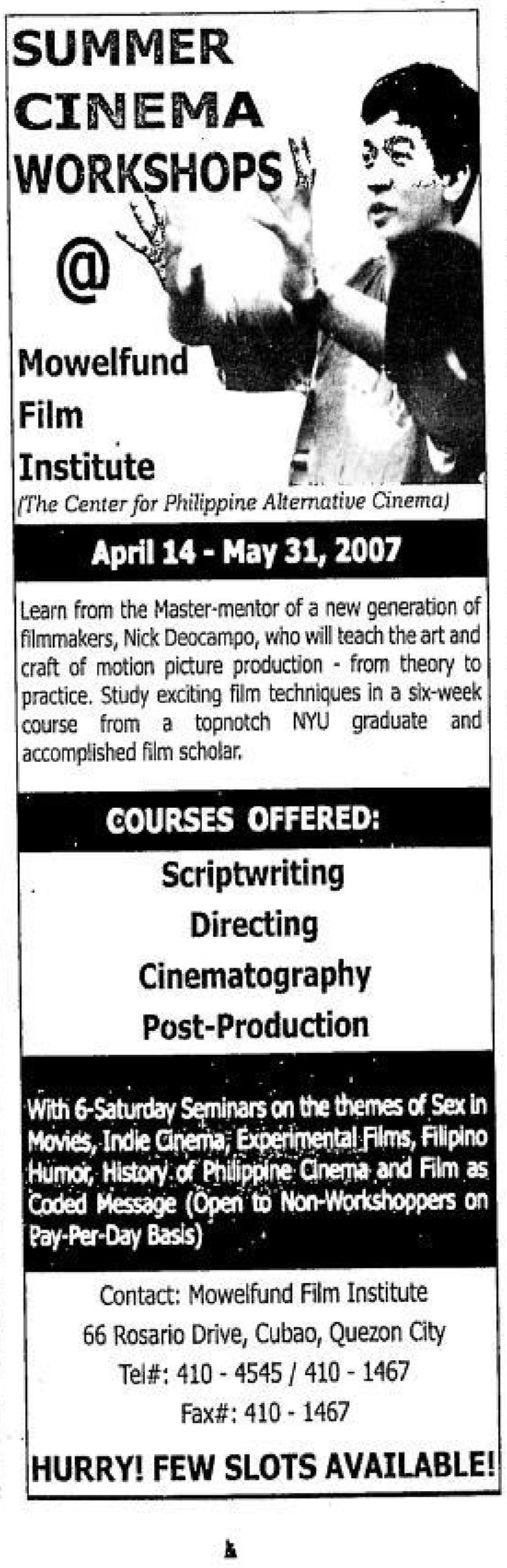
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IN THIS ISSUE
JOEY GOSIENGFIAO
sings his swan song /13

Aga Muhlach is fiercely protective of his family

SHOW BIZ Q & A

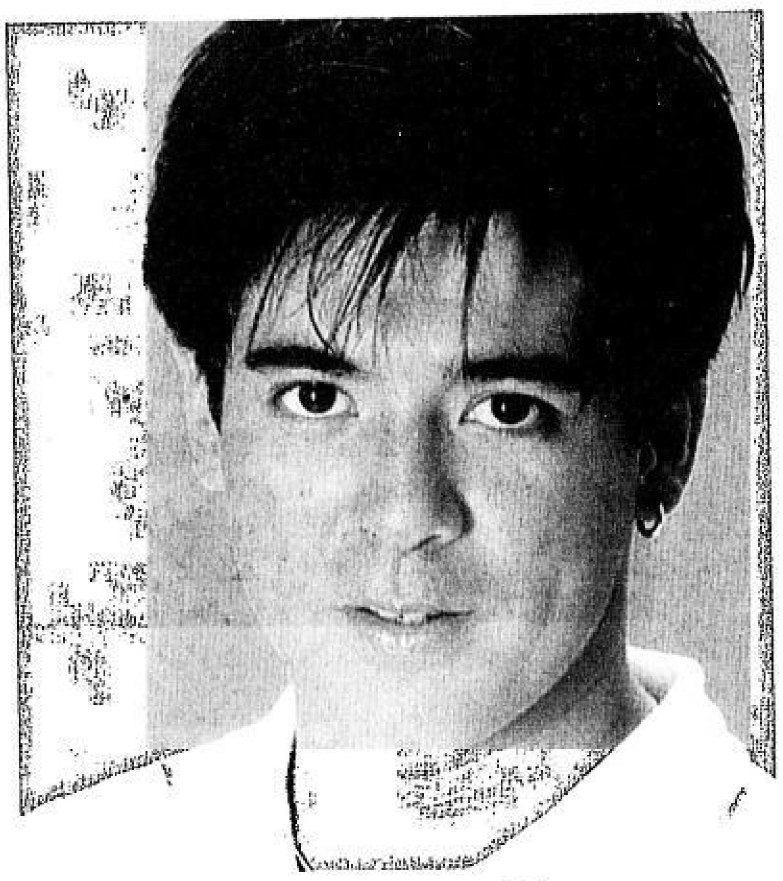
Rito P. Asilo

WE EXPECTED A TIGHT-LIPPED Aga Muhlach when we interviewed him for this article. Beforehand, we were cautioned that the acclaimed actor didn't like talking about his family life.

Yes, the actor knows how to work his way around tricky questions, but, to our pleasant surprise, a considerably slimmer and more candid Aga offered to give a no-holds-barred Q&A. He boldly dared, "Ask me any question you like—*OK lang!*"

The interview revealed a sensible family man who possessed a mature outlook, and an artist who cared about his craft—and his fans.

The Aga we talked to had strong opinions about politics (he hates it) and the local film industry—a far cry from the "antiseptic" image that had stayed with him since he hit the big time in 1984's "Bagets," and even after his self-described "lost years" in the late '80s and early '90s.



MUHLACH. Prefers movies that make him think.

Twins

We later understood why he was fiercely protective of his family, which includes wife Charlene and their twins, Atasha and Andres.

In 2004, just after the release of "All My Life," as Aga was preparing to do "Dubai," a nasty rumor started to spread that the union of the erstwhile ideal couple was in trouble.

Aga was devastated. He confessed: "I really got offended—because it wasn't true! It wasn't that the relationship was allegedly shaky—they said that we had already parted ways! I was shocked that some people were just waiting for us to break up, like it was something that was bound to happen! *Nanlambot talaga ako sa industriya*. That was the time that I started gaining weight. But, our bond is strong—it's not easy to break us up."

We also talked about movies and the local industry. We were impressed when we asked him about the films he watches.

He readily answered: "I love movies that make me think. 'Apocalypto,' 'The Pursuit of Happyness,' 'The Departed'…" Hmm. Great titles, although they were pretty "mainstream," we thought.

Then, he went on to enumerate more titles: "'The Illusionist,' 'The Prestige.'" And I recommend 'The Last Kiss.' *"Nakaka-inggit at nakaka*-frustrate that we can't come up with movies like those." —Whoa!

Does he want to direct? "Maybe when I'm older. But for now, I'm just happy being an actor. I 'direct' my scenes, anyway—and I choose the kind of movies I make, like my next project, which pairs me with Maricel Soriano and Angelica Panganiban for the first time. *Naiibang* love story *siya*. It also marks my reunion with Maryo J. delos Reyes, who directed me in 'Bagets' and 'Sinungaling Mong Puso.'"

Barrage of questions

How does he prepare for a role? Does he have a favorite movie or screen partner? He laughed at the barrage of questions: "I don't prepare that much—as long as I understand the story and the character I play. But, the harder the situation, the better. I liked 'Kailangan Kita.' *Gusto ko 'yung* roles *na nahihirapan ako, 'yung* simple movies with real scenes *kung saan nakaka*-relate *ang mga tao*.

"I choose what's relevant and timely. I think of my viewers, *kasi aanhin mo ang magandang* performance *kung* boring *ang pelikula mo?* I have good rapport with most of my co-actors, but I have to say I really enjoy working with Claudine Barretto. Sometimes, we don't even talk on the set, but we click when the cameras start to roll. We hardly have inhibitions."

Interesting perspective

He has an interesting perspective on the popularity of local digital films. He opined: "They're alright. *Kaya lang, minsan, bakit nila masyadong ginagawang pa*-weirdo? Let's make those digital indies, yes, but let's not forget the story. *Dapat klaro ang kuwento! Magpapaka*-artsy *ka*, tapos *hindi naman maintindihan ang istorya mo?* They do a lot of digital films in the US, but their stories are clear—*at nasusundan mo pa rin ang patutunguhan*."

Why hasn't he entered politics? He declared with finality, "So-*brang* allergic *ako sa* politics. Over my dead body! Never!"

How weird can some stars get? Very!

By Nestor U. Torre

WHAT MAKES STARS DIFFERENT from other people? Looks, talent, charisma—plus!

But, some stars feel so special that it goes to their heads—or affects their behavior in some pretty weird ways. *Please* don't do this at home:

Michael Jackson suggested that his three giraffes be dressed in tuxedos to serve as attendants at Elizabeth Taylor and Larry Fortensky's 1991 wedding held at Jackson's ranch!

JACKSON. Giraffes in tuxedos.

Peter Fonda wears bulletproof eyeglasses.

Photo shoot

At a photo shoot, Ashley Judd requested a glass of water that was exactly 72 degrees Fahrenheit.

When Jennifer Lopez stays in a hotel, she brings her own sheets because she can't sleep on anything with a thread count of less than 250!

Shirley MacLaine claims she was the Gypsy lover of Charlemagne in one of her past lives.

Ryan O'Neal jogs on the beach in the nude.

Sting does his yoga exercises outdoors in the nude.

CAREY. No go for wrong color of limo.

Mariah Carey turned down a limo she was supposed to use to go to the Grammy Awards because it wasn't the color she demanded.

Before accepting the assignment, Renee Russo asked God if it was OK for her to go topless in "The Thomas Crown Affair."

Shania Twain moisturizes her face with a product which was originally created to numb cows' udders so they don't feel pain while they're being milked.

Each one of Melanie Griffith's children has a different father—Alexander's is Steven Bauer, Dakota's is Don Johnson, and Stella del Carmen's is Antonio Banderas.

Out of wedlock

After many years of slamming Catholicism, Madonna asked the Pope to personally christen her daughter, Lourdes, who was born out of wedlock.

Jim Carrey has his chocolate lab, Hazel, professionally massaged three times a week.

Woody Allen takes his temperature every two hours during the day.

Kelsey Grammer proposed to Tammi Baliszewski on the set of "Frazier," discussed their problems on "The Oprah Winfrey

HOW/14

ILIBAGIZA (RIGHT). Modern-day Anne Frank.

'Miracle in Rwanda' opens in New York on April 5

By Carissa Villacorta

WHEN LESLIE LEWIS SWORD, daughter of community leader Loida Nicolas Lewis, heard Immaculée Ilibagiza speak about surviving the Rwanda genocide, she was so struck by Ilibagiza's story that she went to Rwanda with her.

On the same trip, the CBS crew of the famed news magazine show, "60 Minutes," shot and chronicled Immaculée's terrifying experience in 1994, when she hid in a 3x4-foot bathroom with seven other women—for 91 days straight!

Passion

After the life-changing journey, Leslie returned to the United States with plans to adopt two Rwandan orphans and present Immaculée's story in theater—Leslie's passion and profession.

"Meeting Immaculée and, subsequently, visiting Rwanda changed my world," shares Sword. "In forgiving the 'unforgivable,' she lives a true Christian life."

Shortly thereafter, Leslie wrote, produced and acted in a one-woman show, "Miracle in Rwanda," based on Immaculée's life. Immaculée is a modern-day Anne Frank. She survived the genocide and now shares her inspiring story with us:

In 1994, in the tiny Central African country—the setting of the play—many of the Tutsi people in Rwanda were killed by the Hutu majority, after years of ethnic tension.

With her strong faith and the rosary her father had given her, Immaculée survived the machete holocaust.

In the 70-minute production, Leslie plays 10 characters, including the Hutu killers, a Hutu radio announcer, Pastor Murinzi

MIRACLE/13

SWORD. Deeply moved by Ilibagiza's survival story.

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Atty. Gaby Concepcion
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Tel. (632) 771-8181/ Fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com

The Regent Hotel
Elias, Angeles St., Naga City
Tel. (6354) 4722626 / Fax (6354) 4722525.

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Dusit Hotel Nikko
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http://manila.dusit.com

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1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Manila
Tel. 633-8888
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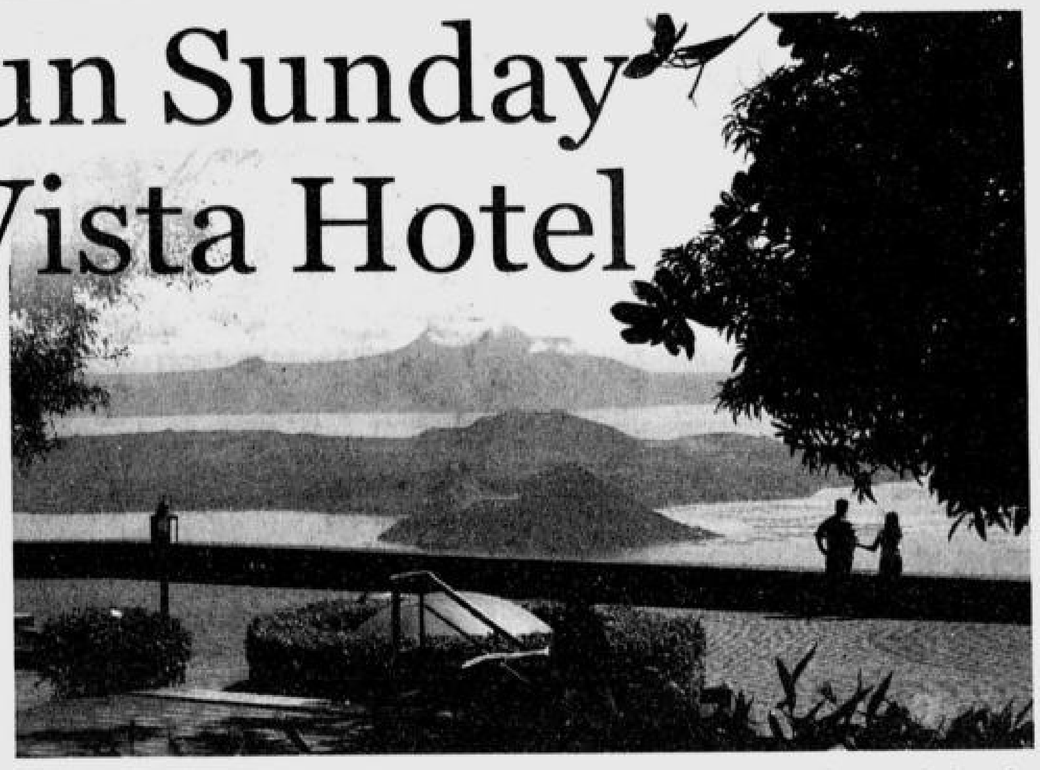
Easter fun Sunday at Taal Vista Hotel



TAGAYTAY HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN AS the country's second summer capital because of its cool climate and amazing lifestyle offerings for the family. This Easter, families have more reasons to enjoy the many fun offerings of Tagaytay through Taal Vista Hotel's "Easter Fun Sunday."

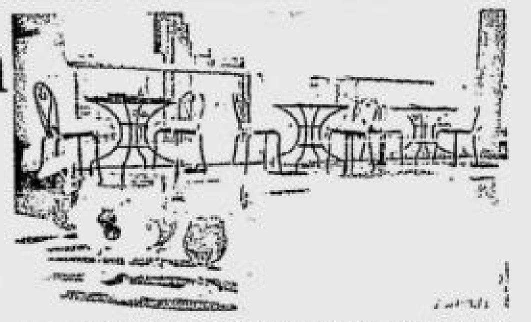
Hip and hop your way to a fun family Easter and let your kids enjoy the many offerings of the new Taal Vista Hotel. On April 8, delight the kids with loads of games, fun activities such as Egg Painting, Film Showing, among others and fantastic giveaways from Caramel Curls and Refresh Pineapple drink from Universal Robina Corp and chocolates with cute designs from Sweet Bella Cakes and Pastries. More amazing are the Enchanted Kingdom day-pass tickets to be given away for the much-anticipated Egg Hunt activities.

Tickets for the "Easter Fun Sunday" are pegged at P395++ per kid inclusive of kiddie buffet lunch, games, activities for the kids and loads of fabulous giveaways! For inquiries and reservations, call 886-43-25 or 751-3088 to 89.

Come and visit the new Taal Vista Hotel this Easter Sunday and discover the many amazing lifestyle offerings of this renowned landmark. The new Taal Vista Hotel is proudly managed by Fuego Hotels and Properties Management Corp. and owned by the renowned SM Investments Corp. Visit www.fuegohotels.com for more information on their other world-class properties and destinations.

In Taal Vista Hotel…the view is just the beginning.

Beat the heat this summer at City Garden



SUMMER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. Looking for a great way to spend it? How about a relaxing day or two in an elegantly furnished room, a spa treat for two, while the kids are frolicking at the outdoor swimming pool, or a romantic dinner overlooking the city lights of the metropolis? All these you can do at City Garden Hotel Makati, without the hassle of long drives, traffic, and exorbitant expenses.

First, check-in to one of its well-appointed guest rooms that come for as low as P1,450+ per person on twin-sharing basis. This already includes a sumptuous buffet breakfast at the Le Jardin.

After check-in, try out their fully-equipped gym and sauna or take a dip in their open-air swimming pool at the Roofdeck. Or better yet, you may opt to explore nearby Powerplant Mall at Rockwell or Glorietta Mall for some shopping.

After a day of fun activities, book a massage or facial treatment for two at Bamboo Spa & Massage for that much needed rejuvenation.

For dinner, do not miss the Roofdeck Bar & Grill. Offering sumptuous grilled specialties and appetizers, it has the best view of the metropolis at night. A great way to end a great day!

For more details, City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7870 Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquires, please call (02)899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com .

Easter Fun Land at Dusit Hotel Nikko

DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO CELEBRATES EASTER with an event dubbed as 'Easter Fun Land at Dusit Hotel Nikko' on April 8, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the newly renovated Grand Ballroom.

Kids joining will enjoy the different activities presented by Bankee Trading like Micheeze (on-line game), Plug and Play, Tamagochi game, RC with race track, and Fly Wheels. Color me Mine will conduct an egg painting activity while Merit Paper Products will do face painting and a coloring activity for all kids. Toddlers can play around the Fisher Price play area. And of course, Easter would not be complete without the Easter egg hunt. A bubbly Bubble Show awaits kids courtesy of Cambridge Learning School.

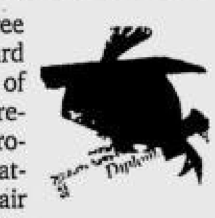
There are four ways to join 'Easter Fun Land at Dusit Hotel Nikko.' Kids must avail of either the Easter Sunday Brunch Buffet at the Café priced at P325++ per kid or the Weekend Buffet at Benkay priced at P497.50 ++ per kid. Guest may avail of the hotel's Easter Room Package or simply pay the walk-in rate of P450 nett per child.

'Easter Fun Land at Dusit Hotel Nikko' was also made possible with the support of Maginet, JJS Entertainment, and Party Works. For more information, please call 867-3333.

Chocolate nights at the trendy Paseo Uno

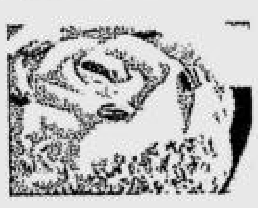
MANDARIN ORIENTAL'S ASIAN-INSPIRED CHIC, all-day dining restaurant Paseo Uno with its theatre of open kitchens and sensational buffets is known for creating a gustatory trademark, with its trend setting dining concept among the metropolis' stylish set since its launch four years ago. On Thursdays, another exciting gastronomic treat dubbed "Chocolate Nights" beckon to chocolate lovers young and old alike, as this delectably sweet aphrodisiac finds its way in Paseo Uno's open kitchens as part of the dinner buffet. The restaurant's signature chocolate fountain, chocolate smoothies and martinis are also not to be missed. Another delightful attraction is live praline making by Paseo Uno's creative pastry chefs, where pralines are sold separately for takeout and gift-giving. Paseo Uno's lavish buffet spread proffers a selection of International and Asian specialities, consisting of a superb array of cold hors 'oeuvres, appetizers, salads, sweets and cheeses. At the live cooking stations, savour sumptuous Asian noodles, pasta, tempura, dim sums, grill, roasts and crêpes, prepared a la minute for a delectable dining experience. Chocolate Nights dinner buffet is offered at P1,030+++, adult; and P550+++, child. The trendy Paseo Uno also offers Celebratory Packages, for groups of ten persons or more partaking of the buffet. On Fridays, the restaurant's "Seafood Night" proffers the day's freshest bounty from the sea in a variety of gastronomic offerings from its award-winning culinary team. Paseo Uno is open daily from 6 a.m. to 12 midnight, and serves buffet at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. For reservations and enquiries, call Paseo Uno at 750 8888 extension 2411/2412.

The Bellevue salutes batch 2007



MARCH DOWN THE LUXURIOUS ROOMS OF The Bellevue Hotel after marching down and getting your diploma with The Bellevue's Graduation Promo, Available from March 15 to April 15, the promo goes for a reasonable price of P4,500++ for weekdays and P4,000++ for weekends. Featuring deluxe room accommodation, buffet breakfast for two, unlimited broadband internet access, daily shuttle service to commercial and business district in Alabang, two bottles of mineral water replenished daily, welcome fruit platter, complimentary newspaper and complimentary use of swimming pool and gym facilities. Grads also get to enjoy extra perks such as 15 percent discount on food and beverage outlets, waived minimum cover charge at 20/20 Entertainment Bar, free round of standard drink for groups of four at 20/20, free premium foot spa or aromatherapy hair treatment for every hair and makeup service at The Bellevue Salon and complimentary cake for the graduate! Graduates get the special treatment at The Bellevue Hotel's main dining outlet, the Café d' Asie, for the whole month of March. For every group of six availing the heaping international lunch and dinner buffets, the sixth buffet is free!

A perfect gift for the graduates, The Bellevue presents its 'Cake of the Month' for March - Mango Delirium. Rich layers of dacquois are filled with chocolate couverture and fresh mangoes covered in whipped cream. Taste it to believe!



Plus, The Bellevue fetes the graduates as it welcomes the famous acoustic duo, MYMP at its 20/20 Entertainment Bar on March 24, 9 p.m. Organized by Bellevue in cooperation with WRock 96.3, this intimate concert will serenade MYMP fans as well as the new grads with Juris and Chin's brand of soothing ballads and chart-topping originals. Minimum consumable of P500 for food and drinks applies. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Chef Vito: the new face of La Gondola

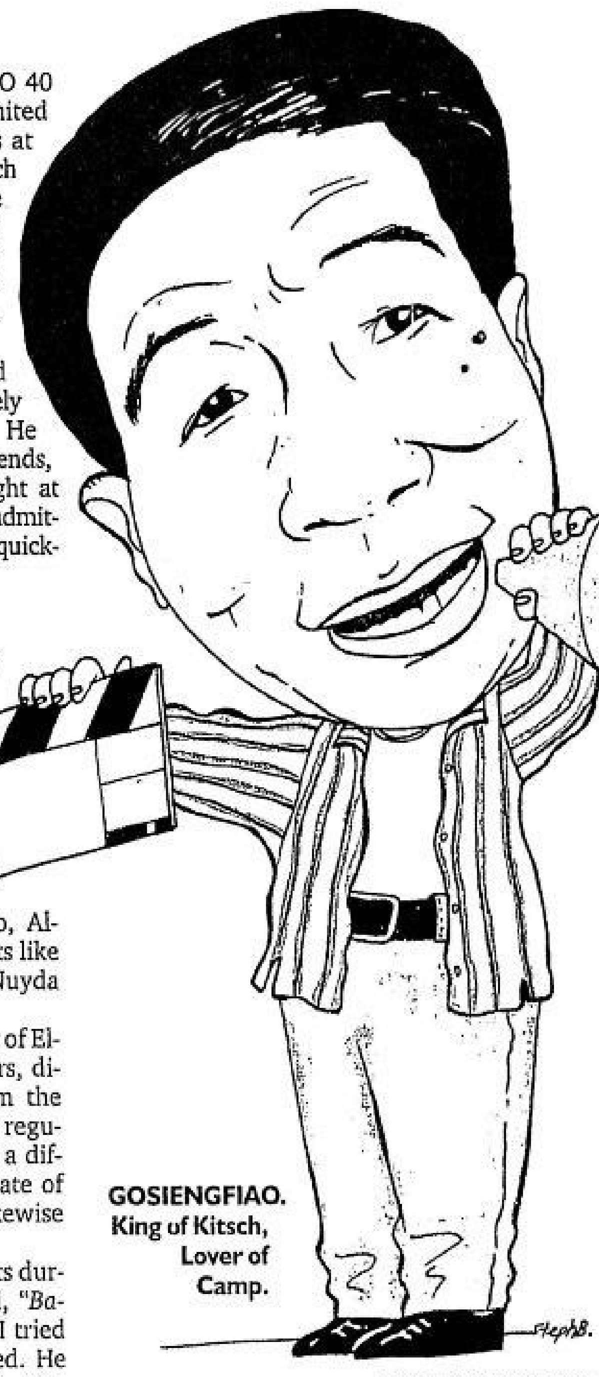
JUST LAST NOVEMBER, WATERFRONT CEBU City Hotel and Casino welcomed a new executive chef, Anders Hallden, to its culinary team. Chef Anders' has been focusing his boundless energy on revamping the Uno buffet, which now includes herring dishes from his native Sweden. This month, Waterfront not only welcomes a new face to its Italian restaurant, but also proudly boasts of being the only hotel to have a foreign chef for every restaurant at the Gourmet Walk - Japanese chef Imamura for Mizu, Chinese chef Low for Tin Gow, and now, Italian chef Vito for La Gondola.

Hailing from the Southern Italian city of Naples, the birthplace of pizza, chef Vito Froio takes his cooking seriously. At the age of 14, he began his culinary journey at the prestigious Culinary Hotel School of Naples, learning the art and chemistry of cooking. At 22, chef Vito furthered his passion in the kitchen by working directly under the oldest and most acclaimed pizza maker in Naples, eventually leading a team of chefs to win numerous national and international Italian culinary competitions. Now, this committed 36-year old chef can boast of an impressive and global trail of professional experience - in France, Dubai, Beijing, Al Ain in the UAE, and most recently as executive sous chef of The Grand Hotel in New Delhi and executive chef and culinary consultant for Bella Napoli in Shanghai. "I am a world citizen," he quietly asserts through intense eyes and a shy smile.

Chef Vito also has an ear for music. He plays the sax, flute and the keyboards, and can reproduce a song just by listening to it a few times. He likes to do everything with music on, especially cooking, and is a big jazz and R&B fan. As the Salt and Peppa song in the '90s goes, "What a man!"

Joey Gosiengfiao sings his swan song

By Behn Cervantes



GOSIENGFIAO. King of Kitsch, Lover of Camp.

CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

I FIRST HEARD OF JOEY GOSIENGFIAO 40 years ago when I returned from the United States in 1967. His theater productions at the University of the East had made such an impact that even UP groups like the Upsilon Sigma Phi and Sigma Delta queued up to sponsor them. Since I had a "monopoly" of both organizations' productions for some time, I asked: "Who is this intruder?"

However, when I was finally introduced to the *chinito* director, I was completely charmed by his engaging personality. He talked to me as though we were old friends, mentioning my sister, Rachel, who taught at that university's English department. He admitted watching my past productions, so we quickly became friends.

Watering hole

Thereafter, we would meet every night at When It's A Grey November in Your Soul, Ishmael Bernal's trendy café. When Bernie flew to India for a film scholarship, the café lost the Bernal touch, so many of its habitués moved over to Betsy Romualdez' Indios Bravos, the watering hole of established artists like Nick Joaquin, Larry Francia, Virgie Moreno, Alcuaz, Joya, along with writers and artists like Pete Lacaba, Ofelia Gelvezon, Tiny Nuyda and BenCab.

Joey, who was always in the company of Elwood Perez, would socialize with actors, directors and production designers from the stage and television. Lively discussions regularly took place. But, Joey always took a different point of view. He was an advocate of what was campy and kitschy fun. We likewise enjoyed trading Hollywood trivia.

When I started marching in the streets during the First Quarter Storm, he asked, "*Bakeeet? 'Di ka naman mahirap?*" When I tried to politicize him, he was not interested. He preferred to "celebrate" life, instead. "Be beautiful!" was his clarion call.

Joey was a faithful and jovial friend. Whenever I would call him to clarify Hollywood trivia, he would always begin with "*Kumusta ka na?*" He was so sincere that I would easily shift from business to personal in approach.

He ensured that I did my Tagalog television debut in the original "Balintataw." The experience was traumatic, however. Joey gave me the role of a Chinese valet in an episode starring the colorful Elvira Manahan. Trouble was, when I delivered my lines, I overheard a cameraman say: "*Pambihirang Instik, Kastila at Bisaya ang punto!*"

Then, he fought that I be cast in Repertory Philippines' production of Brecht's "Mother Courage" in 1968, which eased the tension between Zeneida Amador and me. I acted and eventually directed for the company for a few years.

Critical acclaim

Not long after, we founded a group called Philippine Unique Theatre Association as a jibe for another troupe. A society editor was furious when she figured out the acronym. That group, under Joey's direction, staged "Boys in the Band," Manila's first gay play, which was met with critical acclaim and SRO audiences.

When Martial Law was declared, I went into hiding. I would go to Joey's Kamuning apartment when I had no place for the night after the curfew hour struck. Although I would only knock on his door as a last alternative, he never turned me down.

He only requested that I didn't introduce my buddy because, should there be an arrest, he would merely reason out that I was his friend—and our friendship was most important to him!

In return, he asked me to judge gay contests held in his bar, Chicos. In that kitschy ambience, he was in his element. Although I remember Joey as the Peking Duck, the King of Kitsch, and the Lover of Camp, he was first and foremost a dear and good friend.

You will be sorely missed, Joey!

ALVAREZ, SEÑA AND LAZO. Played their first starring roles in Torre's hit musicals.

Total performance workshop for stars of tomorrow at Selah

THROUGHOUT HIS DISTINGUISHED career as director and performance coach, Nestor U. Torre has won the gratitude of young talents, because he has gone out of his way to discover and train new singers and actors, many of whom have gone on to do exceptional work, both here and abroad.

At the Ateneo Graduate School, one of Torre's best students was Laurice Guillen, now a famous actress and director.

Rare chance

In Torre's hit musical, "Magsimula Ka," many new talents were given a rare chance to play lead roles, and went on to flourishing careers in show business. They include Isay Alvarez, Robert Seña, Jograd dela Torre, Beverly Salviejo, Andy Bais and Rito Asilo.

Torre's "Awit ni Kadugnung" was the first musical performed in by Angelique Lazo and Bimbo Cerrudo. "Katy" was Pinky Marquez's first musical.

Acclaimed

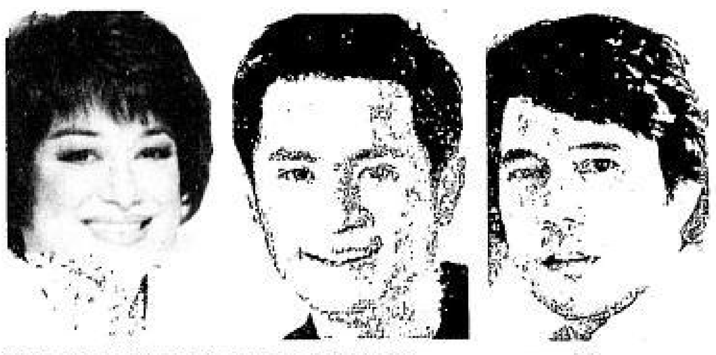
Torre has also directed acclaimed stars like Nora Aunor, Mitch Valdes, Ogie Alcasid, Cocoy Laurel, Celeste Legaspi, Tommy Abuel, Behn Cervantes, Cynthia Patag, Bodjie Pascua, Ivy Violan, Lou Veloso and Tetchie Agbayani.

This summer, Torre will hold a total performance workshop for prospective stars of tomorrow to discover and develop a fresh batch of new talents.

The workshop will be held from April 2 to May 4 at Selah, The Music Basement located at 122 Doña Consolacion bldg., Jupiter st., Bel-air, Makati City, from 9 a.m. to 12 nn., every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Call 899-4480, local 815 or visit www.selah-music.com.

The workshop encompasses

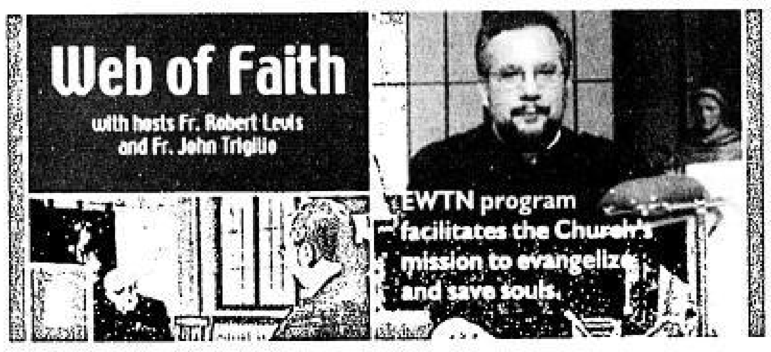
TOTAL/14



VALDES, ALCASID AND LAUREL. Have come up with outstanding portrayals in productions directed by Torre.

TV show evangelizes through the Internet

By Lilia Borlongan-Alvarez


Web of Faith
with hosts Fr. Robert Levis and Fr. John Trigilio
EWTN program facilitates the Church's mission to evangelize and save souls.

CHRISTIAN VIEWERS WILL find a goldmine in EWTN's "Web of Faith," aired every Sunday at 9 a.m. The show is hosted by Frs. Robert Levis and John Trigilio. The program answers viewers' questions *via* e-mail about living and defending the Catholic faith and doctrines, spiritual growth, conscience and sin.

Hosts

The hosts, both doctors of philosophy, fearlessly answer questions "with off-the-cuff humor, sound doctrine, and commonsense wisdom," unlike other programs that lecture more than they enlighten.

Frs. Levis and Trigilio answer questions about the propriety of situations when Catholics attend Protestant rites, or when the faithful participate in house-warming parties hosted by couples who live together without receiving the sacrament of marriage.

They also discuss how non-Christians can go to heaven; talk about how a person commits a mortal sin when he misses Sunday mass without a valid reason; distinguish between mortal and venial sins; talk about the existence of purgatory, hell and Satan, and about priests who deviate from the prescribed liturgy.

As they answer questions about the scripture and tradition, and about contemporary issues like homosexuality and radical feminism, the two priests use analogies to relate their personal experiences.

Messages

The program also uses the Internet to relay its messages. On the EWTN website, viewers are encouraged to post their questions about anything—from converting to Catholicism to practical applications in Christian living. For a change, the Internet is able to facilitate the Church's mission to evangelize and save souls.

Frs. Levis and Trigilio know whereof they speak. The former is the founding director of a pontifical institute in Pennsylvania. His latest book for the youth, "Jesus, the Catechism and Me," can be accessed through EWTN"s religious catalogue.

The latter, who co-hosts another EWTN program, "Crash Course on Catholicism," is the coauthor of the books, "Catholicism for Dummies" and "Women in the Bible for Dummies." He is also with Opus Dei.

'Miracle in Rwanda'

From page 11

(the man who hid her), Immaculée, and Immaculée's brother and father.

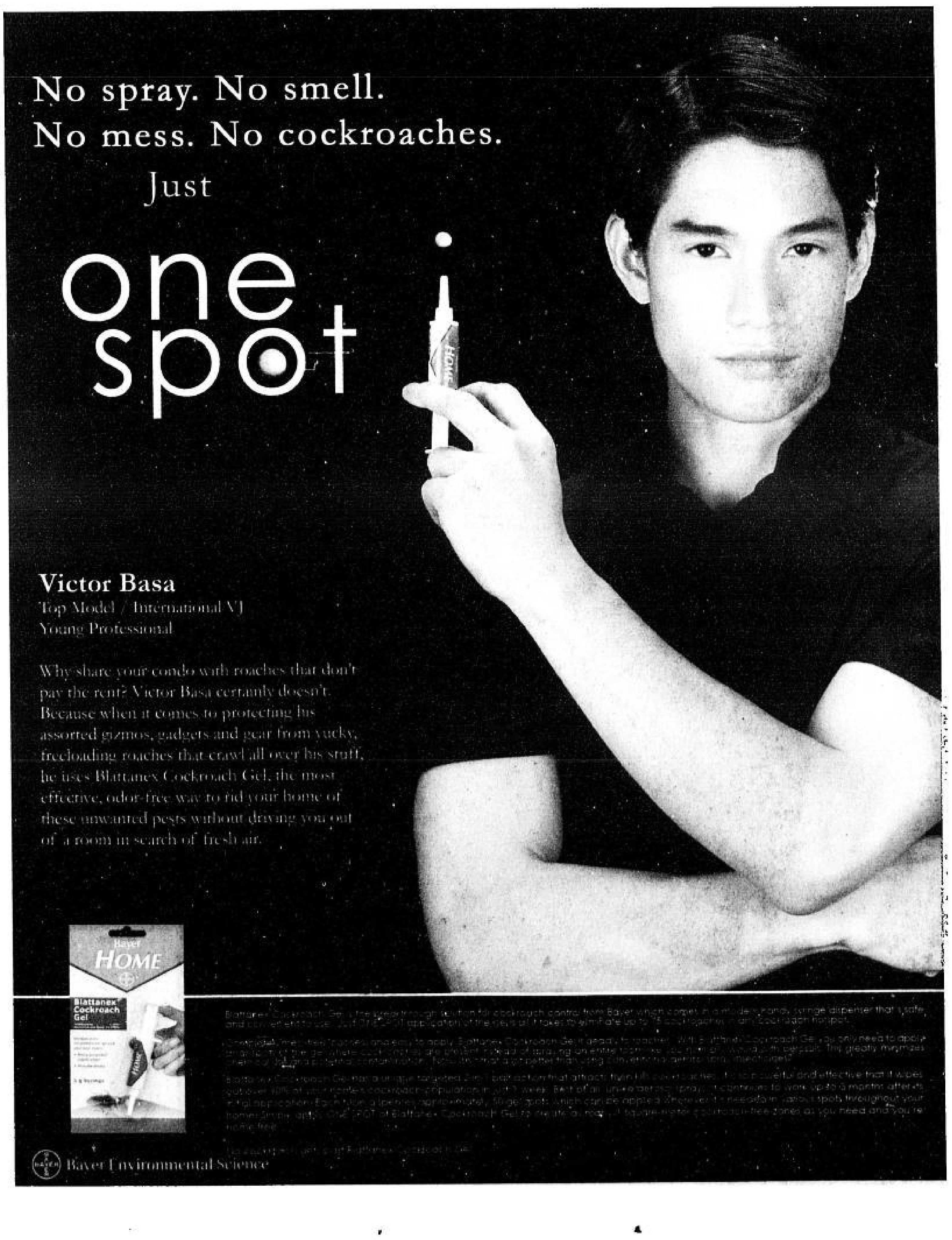
Genocide

In the next 100 days, Immaculée's parents, brothers, cousins, and friends were all killed in the genocide. Only one other brother, who was then studying abroad, was saved.

Last February in Naples, Florida, Leslie celebrated life with her friends and family as "Miracle in Rwanda" opened to an appreciative audience. She also celebrated the festive baptism of her and husband Gavin's two adopted Rwandan children, Christian Roy and Savilla Joy.

Sword wants others to experience Immaculée's journey by watching the play, which runs in New York from April 5 to 29. The show will then travel to Edinburgh and Stanford University.

LESLIE, Gavin and kids, with Leslie's sister Christina and mom Loida.



Victor Basa
Top Model / International VJ
Young Professional

Why share your condo with roaches that don't pay the rent? Victor Basa certainly doesn't. Because when it comes to protecting his assorted gizmos, gadgets and gear from yucky, freeloading roaches that crawl all over his stuff, he uses Blattanex Cockroach Gel, the most effective, odor-free way to rid your home of these unwanted pests without driving you out of a room in search of fresh air.

Bullock delivers solid performance in stodgy thriller

By Noelani Torre

IN THE FIRST SCENE OF THE suspense-thriller, "Premonition," we see happily married Jim and Linda Hanson (Julian McMahon and Sandra Bullock) moving into their first house.

They're all lovey-dovey and the scene is shot with a nimbus of white light—and you *just* know that this all too perfect scene is just begging to be shattered.

Years later, the Hansons have two daughters, a mortgage, and an unexciting relationship with each other. One morning, Linda goes about doing household chores when somebody knocks on her front door. It's the local sheriff telling her that her husband died in a car accident yesterday!

Devastated

Linda is devastated. She manages to tell her kids the tragic news and call friends and family for help. Finally, she falls asleep on the couch at the end of the day. —The next day, she wakes up and goes finds her husband alive and drinking coffee in the kitchen!

BULLOCK. Her character finds herself jumping back and forth in time.

Apparently, the whole thing had just been a nightmare. Then, she wakes up the next morning to a house brimming with black-clad mourners. Linda, to quote Kurt Vonnegut in "Slaughterhouse Five," has become "unstuck in time."

Before you read on, please be warned that more spoilers are coming. To continue with the story, Linda finds herself jumping back and forth in time, and her cool relationship with her husband is revealed. It seems he was planning to cheat on her, and Linda's sorrow is blended with resentment, and a grim acceptance. But, is she just going to let him die?

Directed by Turkish-German director, Mennan Yapo, the movie clearly has a lot of influences. After all, time-bending tales are a Hollywood staple, and Bullock has, in fact, appeared in another such movie (last year's "The Lake House").

Unlike the better-made nonlinear films, however, this one suffers from a stodgy pace and too many "plot holes."

Mystery

The film initially engages your interest because it presents you with a mystery. As it plays, however, the holes in the story become hard to ignore: Why, for example, couldn't the authorities immediately inform the family of a car crash victim who died the previous afternoon? Why did Linda's daughter not have scars on her face on Thursday when she was supposed to have had the accident on a Monday?

Bullock's solid performance anchors the sometimes incohetent movie, but all in all, it's not nearly enough to mitigate the frustration you feel about not being given much back for the interest you invested.

Urbano resurrects Mongolian funnyman

By Remy M. Umerez

IN THE 1950S, ACCLAIMED filmmaker Manuel Conde starred in the popular satire, "Juan Tamad," which combined humor and social commentary on the Filipino's way of life. Its sequel, "Juan Tamad goes to Congress," focused on politics.

From the late '80s to 1995, Conde's son, Jun Urbano, cooked up the character of Mr. Shooli on television. Urbano has now decided to resurrect his famous Mongolian alter ego in the forthcoming movie, 'Ang MONA Y ni Pareng Mongol," a socio-political satire. "MONA Y" stands for "Mistakes of the Nation's Address Yata."

First visit

Its plot revolves around the experiences of Mr. Shooli in the Philippines. Forty years after his first visit here, he returns to find the country and its people very different from what he saw in his youth.

The movie opens with Mr. Shooli receiving a telegram from Mr. Garci, his professor in college, inviting him to visit the Philippines once again. Leo Martinez reprises his role as Congressman Manhik Manaog, Shooli's not-so-bright former classmate.

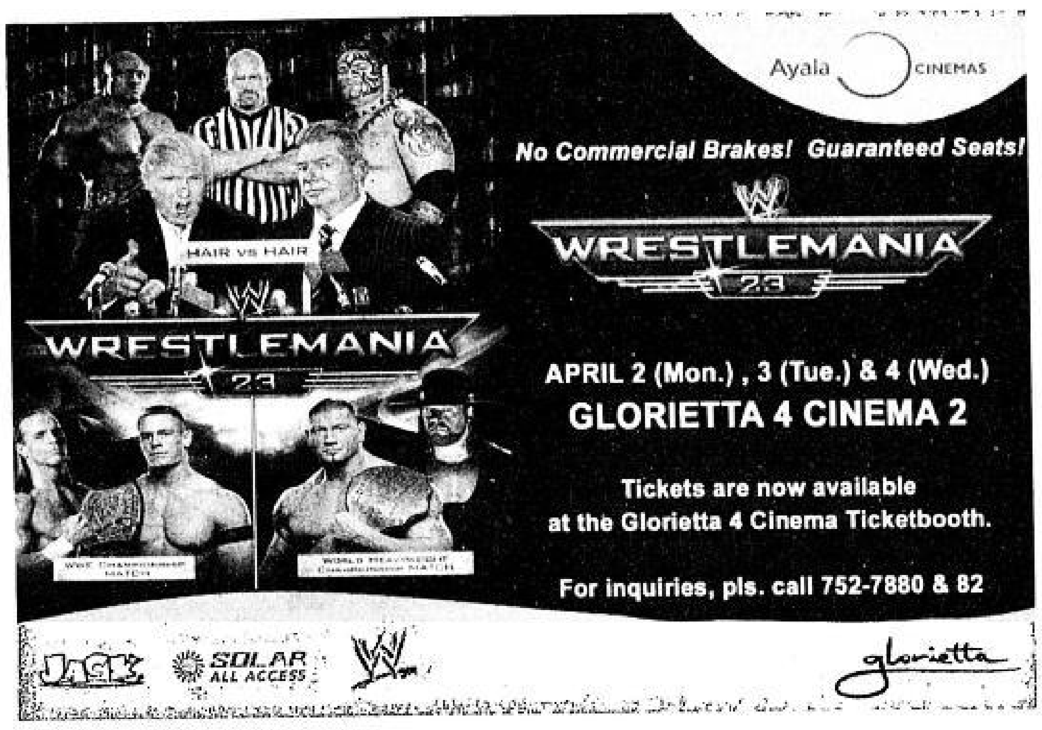
Jun says the movie is a labor of love. He's very grateful to actor-friends like Gloria Romero, who appeared in the film pro bono. He recalls how, in one scene, he spilled coffee on Romero. He relates: "*Hiyang-hiya ako dahil ngayon lang ito nangyari sa kanya—at ayaw pang magpabayad! Gift daw niya ito sa akin,* because she believes in the message that the movie conveys." Romero plays Mr. Shooli's former crush in college.

URBANO. His new film is a labor of love.

Cameos

Other actors who appear in cameos include Tirso Cruz III, German Moreno, Giselle Sanchez, Ricky Davao, Mat Ranillo III, Caridad Sanchez, Noel Trinidad, Gary Lising, Long Mejia, Bembol Roco and Ramon Zamora.

Urbano's film imparts an important message: Choosing the right candidates in the coming election. He adds: "But, we impart this message using laughter, *para* we entertain and educate at the same time. This is my apostolate as an entertainer!"



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How weird . . . From page 11

Show," and broke up with her when he appeared on "Entertainment Tonight" with his new girlfriend!

Anne Bancroft sometimes pretended to have an imaginary daughter named Melissa, to whom she talked whenever her husband and son left her out of their conversation.

Roseanne Barr married her bodyguard.

Robin Williams married his children's nanny.

Pacifier

Elizabeth Hurley sucks on a pacifier to help stave off her craving for cigarettes!

Marlon Brando once tried to provide electrical power to the Tahitian island he owned by using—electric eels.

When Sharon Stone wanted to get pregnant, she performed an African fertility dance and sprinkled clover flowers and raspberry leaves on her bed!

And Brad Pitt once paid $20,000 for exotic plants, but never picked them up from the nursery!

Book offers practical solutions

STREET SMART
Mandy Navasero

DR. IMELDA G. VILLAR IS AN EXtraordinary woman with an inspiring story to tell. In 1989, she won the TOWNS Award in education. She pioneered in the use of neurolinguistic programming in the country while working as a guidance counselor at St. Scholastica's College.

Techniques

The program offers techniques that accelerate resolution of problems and healing. She trained people in the grassroots to take advantage of those techniques here and abroad.

Villar, now the president of TOWNS, has written specific procedures to facilitate the learning process of trainees in the book, "The NLP Magic: Therapeutic Explorations in Asia."

VILLAR. Inspiring story.

She has conducted therapy sessions with individuals going through critical periods in their lives.

Difference

Villar is calling on organizations and individuals to nominate outstanding women who have made a difference in their respective fields. You can download nomination forms at www.towns.org.ph. Call 831-5195, e-mail townsimelda@yahoo.com.

* * *

The Mandy Navasero Batanes Photo Safari from May 6 to 10 is still open for photography enthusiasts.

Call 899-1767, or e-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com.

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A mom like Jewel doesn't tolerate disease-carrying cockroaches in her home. When cockroaches threaten her family's health and welfare, this young mom wages all-out war against cockroaches using Blattanex Cockroach Gel. With no harmful ingredients, smell or fumes that might endanger her 3-year-old son's health or drive her family out of a room in search of fresh air, it's the only solution that brings lasting peace of mind.

Bayer Environmental Science

Total performance . . . From page 13

modules combining exercises in acting, singing and dancing for the stage, TV and film, intended to develop each workshopper depending on his or her specific combination of abilities.

The workshop includes exercises in script and lyric analysis, creating and developing characters, audience psychology, interaction with co-performers, different performance styles, career development, and other elements that go into the making of a total performer.

Workshoppers are taught that performing is living your life, then using those experiences to enable members of the audience to experience their own emotions.

Imagination

Performing in the moment is the goal. The moment is that instant when the performer's imagination and talent create a flash of truth. The audience recognizes and identifies with the truth and is transported and moved.

In addition to learning the craft and art of performing, the workshopper is guided on how to present and project himself or herself at his or her best.

Versatile

At the same time, the workshopper is encouraged to be versatile, since each producer and director is looking for someone specific, to cast in his or her production.

So, the more characters and styles a talent can project, the more professional opportunities to perform will come his or her way, and his or her career and popularity can develop more fully.

To further showcase the workshoppers' developing skills, they will perform in a recital showcase to which producers and directors will be invited.

In addition, workshoppers can join the workshop mentor's own professional presentations, so they can get more hands-on experience in actual performance.